

# We of Nojoshing

Nojoshing – Indian word for the area where our pioneer members settled in 1849; it means "piece of land stretching into the water."  
The name was changed later to Saint Francis, Wisconsin.



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SISTERS of ST. FRANCIS of ASSISI, 3221 South Lake Drive, St. Francis, WI 53235-3799

## **We celebrate the memory of our beloved Sister Angela (Patricia Ann) Perrizo September 7, 1927– October 10, 2023**

Sister Angela was born in Fond du Lac, Wis., and baptized Patricia Ann. She, along with a younger brother and two sisters, grew up on a family-homestead dairy farm just north of North Fond du Lac. The one-room schoolhouse she attended for grades one through eight was located on the road next to family farm's driveway. She attended high school at St. Mary of the Springs Academy just outside of Fond du Lac, with the exception of her sophomore year, when she attended the public high school in North Fond du Lac.

For five years after high school, Sister Angela worked for a real estate company, researching abstracts. The call to religious life had deepened over the years and in August of 1950 her parents drove her to Baltimore, Md., where she entered the Franciscan Sisters of Mill Hill, later known as the Franciscan Sisters of Baltimore. Her attraction to this community was that they were small and worked exclusively with the African-American population.

She embraced life in community. On April 18, 1951, at reception as a novice, Patricia received the name Sister Angela. On June 16, 1953, she made her first profession and on August 23, 1953, final profession. Her dedication was "The Most Holy Trinity" and her religious motto was "*To the one God and one soul (Uni Una).*"

Her first three years of profession were difficult because she was sent to teach before completing her college education. Between 1953 and 1992, she taught first, second, fifth and eighth grades as needed at St. John and Resurrection schools in New York City; Christ the King in Norfolk, Va.; and at St. Clare School in Baltimore, Md., for her final teaching assignment.

During these years of teaching, Sister Angela attended college part-time and in 1963 was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Fordham University in New York City. In addition, she earned an in-service certificate in math from the superintendent of schools in New York City.

From 1966 to 1973, Sister Angela's teaching ministry was replaced with formation work with the novices and junior Sisters for the congregation in Baltimore. Beginning in 1971, she also tutored at St. Elizabeth School.

Sister Angela's ministry, until her retirement in 2003, included secretarial duties, assistance to the congregation's treasurer, serving on the Council of the Franciscan Sisters of Baltimore from 1998 until the merger with the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi in 2001. From 2003 to 2005, Sister Angela lived at Clare Hall in Saint Francis, Wis., while the convent in Baltimore was being renovated to become part of Clare Court in collaboration with Homes for America. She was an active volunteer during that time.

She returned to Baltimore in 2005 and lived at Clare Court Convent until 2017 when she returned to St. Francis Convent in Saint Francis because of increasing health needs. Here her ministry was one of prayer and presence until God called her home on October 10, 2023.

Sister Angela's desire to minister among the African-American population was realized in her 30 years of teaching. Her changes in assignments offered her many interesting experiences. For example, she taught a class of first graders in Yonkers and then went to another school for a period of time. When she returned to Yonkers, her first graders were now eighth graders and she was assigned to that class!

Sister's presence was one of peace and calm. She was prayerful in her quiet way. The mystery and beauty of nature energized her, and creation spirituality was an integral part of her life and connection to God.

On the fun side of her life, she rooted for the Green Bay Packers. After all, she was a Wisconsin native! She liked to read, play cards, and did some sewing and embroidery. After moving back to Wisconsin, connecting to her family was much easier.

Sister Angela, age 96, was called to enter the fullness of eternal life at 6:17 p.m. on Tuesday, October 10, 2023. Father Jim Schroeder anointed her after Mass on September 29, and Sisters began sitting with her. Sisters Ruth Mary Costello, Jane Denning, Joanne Schatzlein, JoAnn Schmitz, and Shannon Dolbeck, CNA, were present when Sister Angie died peacefully.

The writings of Jessica Powers, OCD, were very meaningful for Sister Angela. She shared the following lines with others and now it is fitting to share her treasured words more widely.

*God fills my being to the brim  
with floods of His immensity.  
I drown within a drop of Him  
whose sea-bed is infinity.*  
~ "Doxology" by Jessica Powers

~ Marcia Lunz, OSF