

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 St. Francis, Wisconsin.



Newsletter of The New Assisi Archives of the
SISTERS of ST. FRANCIS of ASSISI, 3221 South Lake Drive, St. Francis, WI 53235-3799

We celebrate the memory of our beloved Sister Linda Bridget Tan

(formerly Sister Ritamary)

September 25, 1945 – September 2, 2020

Sister Linda was born on September 25, 1945, and baptized October 14, 1945, in Our Lady of Mercy Church in Philadelphia, Penn. Her parents were Felix and Anna (Riley) Tan. She had four brothers and one sister – Russell, Leonard, David (Bunny), Clifford and Phyllis. Sister Linda attended St. Bartholomew grade school and graduated from St. Hubert High School in Philadelphia in 1963. After high school graduation, she worked for a year before entering the Franciscan Sisters of Mill Hill (later in 1982, the Franciscan Sisters of Baltimore) on September 8, 1964. When she became a novice on August 22, 1965, she received the name Sister Ritamary, but returned to her baptismal name in 1999.

Sister Linda professed vows on September 10, 1967, and continued her college studies, graduating in 1970 from Mt. St. Agnes College in Baltimore with a bachelor's degree in English. Though prepared as a secondary teacher, her first teaching assignment was as a second-grade teacher at Christ the King Parish in Norfolk, Virginia. After one year, she was assigned to teach eighth grade and then became principal in 1976. In the summers, she studied at LaSalle University in Philadelphia and earned a master's degree in Administration of Religious Education in 1984.

Following nine years as principal, Sister Linda spent a year working toward a master's degree in Formative Spirituality at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Penn., and graduated in 1986. She moved back to Baltimore as Motherhouse coordinator, combined with a second term as General Council member, and then was elected General Superior for two four-year terms (1990–1998). This was followed by a sabbatical year.

In 1999, Sister Linda began working at the Franciscan Center in Baltimore and was named executive director in May 2001. During this time, she participated in a Fellowship Program for Leaders of Non-profit Organizations and received a certificate in 2003.

On October 4, 2001, the Franciscan Sisters of Baltimore merged with the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi in Saint Francis, Wis. In the spring of 2003, Sister

Linda was elected to the congregation's Administrative Team and served for four years.

Sister Linda took a sabbatical year in 2007–2008 while also serving as president of the Franciscan Federation. In August 2008, she began working as an administrative assistant for the Franciscan Pilgrimage Programs in Franklin, Wis., until her retirement in December 2017 due to health conditions.

In all of her ministries, Sister Linda said she found enjoyment and opportunities to build relationships. She had many stories to tell, especially of her time in Norfolk, which she found to be a very special place with very special people.

During her time as General Superior, the congregation celebrated its 125th anniversary of founding. Her outreach to the sisters in Mill Hill, England, at that time, was the beginning of a reconciliation to reestablish ties that were broken when the Sisters in Baltimore had separated from the Motherhouse in England. Sister Linda and the members of the Council visited Mill Hill, and relationships have deepened throughout the years. The most difficult event Sister Linda experienced as General Superior was dealing with the repercussions of the tragic death of Sister Mary Ann Glinka at their Motherhouse in Baltimore in 1993.

The combination of Sister Linda's Irish and Filipino heritage gave her a unique perspective on life. Family was important to her, and she maintained close ties; she made sure the sisters were included in family events and vice versa. Her love of travel was an avenue for her to establish relationships with persons she met along the way. She was a traveling companion for Anne Eckenrode and assisted many of the sisters to visit their families in Ireland as well. There was nothing more energizing for her than bringing people together for a party. She would mastermind birthday parties as long as she was able.

Sister Linda fought a long battle with cancer and moved into hospice care on July 31 at St. Francis Convent. Sisters began sitting with her on August 27 when her condition declined. Sisters Richelle Ranallo and Regine Ehm, a nurse and an aide were present when Sister Linda died peacefully.

Sister Marcia Lunz in conversation with Sister Linda