



Sister Carol Williams, SC
Entered eternal life on June 21, 2024

On August 22, 1967, at Saint Mary of the Assumption Church, Elizabeth, NJ, Sister Carol made her final profession of vows as a Sister of Charity of Saint Elizabeth in the presence of clergy, sisters, family, friends, and parishioners with the following words:

“I, Sister Carol Christopher Williams, in the presence of the whole company of heaven, renew my promises of Baptism and vow to God, poverty, chastity, and obedience for life according to the constitution of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth of New Jersey; and I engage myself to the instruction of those committed to our charge, to the corporal and spiritual service of the sick and the poor and to all other duties pointed out by the constitution of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth to fulfill which I beg grace through the merits of our crucified and risen Savior

and by the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church. Amen.”

Sister Carol gave life to those words in all areas of her ministry. Whether near or far, she heard and responded to the cries of the poor. She engaged herself wholeheartedly to the corporal and spiritual service to the sick and the poor through instruction as a high school teacher at Saint Mary of the Assumption High School, Elizabeth, St. James High School, Newark and Saint Vincent Academy, Newark and then as a pastoral missionary in Bolivia and Maryland.

After serving a total of five years in our mission in Bolivia, she returned to Newark as teacher and Chair of Religious Studies at Saint Vincent Academy. During that time, she established and directed the service project program “Students in Community,” which actively involved students in direct service to the poor of the city. Sister Carol was gifted with great organizational skills, so under her leadership, the program grew and flourished and continues to this day. She also arranged off-premises annual retreats for the students.

For twenty-five years, at the close of the school year, Sister Carol volunteered pastoral service to the migrant workers and their families with our sisters in Princess Anne, Maryland. Her fluency in Spanish was an asset in Sacramental preparation as well as communication with the migrant families.

While teaching at Saint Vincent Academy, Sister Carol lived with us at Saint Anthony Convent in Elizabeth and was involved in the parish pastoral ministry. She held classes in sacramental preparation, served as Eucharistic Minister and participated in devotional services and social activities. She was well-loved and respected by the Spanish parishioners.

Sister Carol was also an advocate for Social Justice. She joined the group of demonstrators in protest of the Elizabeth Detention Center. Carol was an active participant in the life of the Congregation. She served on numerous committees and prepared prayer services on the retreat team at Maris Stella. She was also a facilitator for Mission Reflection and Charity Alive groups. When her teaching years at Saint Vincent Academy came to an end, Sister Carol served the poor and homeless at Saint Joseph Social Service Center in Elizabeth. Her day at Saint Joseph’s began

following morning Mass at St. Anthony's Church. She served in that capacity each weekday until 4:00 PM. When we moved to St. Walburga Monastery, she continued service at St. Joseph's Center until the onset of COVID. Carol's active life was nourished and sustained by her deep spirituality.

On a personal level, Sister Carol enjoyed a close and loving relationship with her sister, Barbara, her brother Walter, his wife, Elsa and their two sons John and Eric who are here with us today celebrating this Mass of Resurrection.

Carol also treasured her friendship with her faithful friends, Sisters Pat Reynolds, Connie Tanski, Mary Jane Timmermans and Julia Jamink with whom she shared many of life's happy and some sad experiences.

Sister Carol was a great outdoor person and a daily long walker. She enjoyed and appreciated the beauties of God's creation. While at the monastery, she and Benedictine Sister Rosemary took their daily hour's walk through the streets of Elizabeth.

Thank you, Sister Carol, for your life in God's service. How well you lived your words of profession. Your life was an inspiration. You lived the words of Saint Vincent taken from his conferences: "You profess to devote your life to the service of your neighbor for the love of God. Is there any act of love to surpass that? No, for it is admitted that the greatest proof of love is to give one's life for what is loved; and you give your whole life to the practice of Charity, and therefore, you give it for God."

Blessed are you, Sister Carol, who died in the Lord. May you rest from your labors for your works go with you.

Sister Marie Charitina Frabizio, SC