

SISTER FRANCIS CORDIS BERNARDO. SC

Sister Francis Cordis Bernardo 87, a Sister of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, died on November 11, 2026, at Complete Care at St. Vincent's, Cedar Grove, NJ.

Sister Francis Cordis was born in Newark, New Jersey, the daughter of Frank and Lina (Petraccaro) Bernardo. She entered the Sisters of Charity on August 20, 1957, and was a member for 69 years.

Sister Francis Cordis graduated from the College (University) of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station, New Jersey with a B.S. degree in Elementary Education, from Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ with an M.A. in Reading, from LaSalle University, Philadelphia, PA with an M.A. in Religious Education and from Fordham University, Bronx, NY with an Advanced Professional Diploma in Family Ministry/Religious Education. Sister Francis Cordis completed Clinical Pastoral Education at Overlook Hospital, Summit, NJ.

Sister Francis Cordis served in education and pastoral ministry in New Jersey. She was a teacher at St. Anne School, Jersey City; St. Bridget School, Jersey City; St. John School, Orange, and Our Lady of Lourdes School, West Orange. Sister Francis also served as principal in Nativity School, Midland Park.

Sister Francis Cordis was Director of Religious Education at St. Rose of Lima Parish, East Hanover; Sacred Heart Parish, Haworth; Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, West Orange, St. Catherine Parish, Hillside; St. Margaret of Scotland Parish, Morristown and St. Joseph Parish, West Milford. She was Pastoral Associate at St. Nicholas Parish, Passaic and St. Gerard Majella Parish, Paterson.

Sister Francis' service to the Sisters of Charity congregation included service as Coordinator of Pastoral Services and serving as Director of Pastoral Care at St. Anne Villa, Convent Station. Sister Francis also served as Associate Director of Catechist Formation and Certification for the Archdiocese of Newark. In 1997, Sister Francis published a book, *Through Mary's Eyes: Reflections of Her Life and Times*.

Sister Francis Cordis was a woman of deep faith with a special devotion to the Blessed Mother. An avid learner, she also loved dogs and cherished her Italian heritage. She enjoyed sharing Italian meals with her friends and family.

Sister Francis Cordis was predeceased by her parents. She is survived by the Sisters of Charity; her cousins Joseph (Jean) D'Avanzo, Michael (Georgette) D'Avanzo, Anthony (Patricia) D'Avanzo, Anthony (Laurie) Bernardo and Ralph (Karen) Bernardo and her friend of many years, Kate Wehrer.

The wake for Sister Francis Cordis Bernardo will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2026, at Holy Family Chapel, Convent Station, New Jersey from 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM. The Mass of Christian Burial will begin at 11:00 AM and will be livestreamed. Burial in Holy Family Cemetery, Convent Station will immediately follow the Mass. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of S.J. Priola Parsippany Funeral Services, Lake Hiawatha, NJ.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Sister Francis Cordis Bernardo to the Sisters of Charity Office of Legacy and Mission Advancement, PO Box 476, Convent Station, NJ, 07961, would be appreciated.