Sister Mary John Francis Kearney is a Baltimore native, one of four siblings born to Althea and Frank Kearney. She was baptized at St. John Church in Hydes, Maryland. She grew up in the rural farming town and attended elementary school at St. Margaret School and St. John the Evangelist for middle school. She went on to spend her high school years, 1953-57, at the SSND Aspiranture in Fort Lee, N.J. On September 8, 1957, following graduation, she entered the congregation.

Sister Mary John Frances has served in Maryland for sixty years. She began her ministry as a primary teacher at St. Mark in Catonsville where she taught for more than a decade. For twenty-one years following, she ministered as coordinator for Religious Education across Maryland at St. Mark’s, St. Isaac Jogues, St. Clements, St. Matthew, and St. Andrew the Apostle. She then went on to serve as Director of Religious Education at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Joppa and then as Director of Faith Formation at St. Isaac Jogues in Carney.

In 2012, Sister John began ministering as an ESL teacher and tutor at Asylee Women Enterprise, where she continues to serve.

Sister John earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education from Notre Dame of Maryland University in 1968 and a Master of Arts in Religious Education from La Salle University in 1977.