

May 19, 2023

Dear Associates and Sisters,

Long-time Associate, Doris Back went home to God on Tuesday, May 16, 2023. Doris was born on January 16, 1934, in New Alsace, Indiana to the late Oscar C. & Emma (Fox) Graf.

Doris credited Sr. Thomasine Beckmeyer (deceased) for introducing her to the Associate Relationship in the early 1980's. Upon her death, good friend and childhood neighbor from Dover, Indiana, Sr. Gerald Gaynor (deceased), gratefully took over as Doris' contact person.



Doris became familiar with the Franciscan's at an early age. Having grown up next to the convent in Dover, she would join her parents as they took the Sisters on errands, or she would be at the dining room table when they had the Sisters over for dinner. Doris continued this tradition later in life driving some of the retired sisters to the Shrine or out for dinner to a local restaurant. She loved to come to Oldenburg and visit the Sisters. Years ago, Doris would bring her daughter Theresa with her on Christmas day to visit Sr. Mary Michael Wilson (deceased) and Sr. Rose Ann Knoob (deceased) making a day of it. Doris remembered it as the highlight of her holiday.

Doris worked several jobs throughout her life. She worked many years for Sperry Rubber in Brookville, served in Brookville's High School Cafeteria, as well as working as a Florist.

Doris was a member of St. Michael Catholic Church in Brookville where she sang in the choir for many years. She had a love for music and teased that she began singing as soon as she came out of her mother's womb. Doris was especially proud of Theresa's talent of playing the organ and piano. In addition to singing in the choir, Doris also enjoyed camping having a permanent site at Thousand Trails campground in Sunman, IN. She also enjoyed gardening and working jigsaw puzzles.

Doris had a laugh that was distinctive and contagious. She was always happy to be with and among the Sisters and Associates especially during retreats and days of prayer. In addition to the love she had for her family, friends, and the community, she had a special place in her heart for her dogs Jack (deceased) and Blackie.

Doris loved all things Franciscan and Spiritual. She read many books to help her grow in her spiritual life. She felt the Associate relationship helped her grow closer to God and that it provided her with the opportunity to make many friends especially those who were on the same faith journey as she. Doris made her Associate Commitment Permanent in 2004.

The Franciscan Charism that resided in Doris was eager to be shared, so she agreed to serve as a contact person for Lois Mirizzi. What started as a responsibility for Doris, soon turned into a pretty, special friendship. Lois shares what this relationship meant to her. "Doris was a good friend, she was always learning about Francis, Clare, and the Sisters. When Doris looked at me, I felt the love of Jesus, St. Francis, and St. Clare beaming from her eyes. She personified their love for me in my life, giving me guidance as they themselves, would have done. I treasured our relationship as fellow Associates, and she took her role as contact person seriously, so much so, her advice seemed to have come directly from heaven."

Doris is survived by her four children, Theresa Back with whom Doris lived, Alice Back, Patty Coe, and Garry Back, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, a sister Alice Raab and a brother Oscar T. Graf.

Thank you, Doris for your faithfulness to the Associate Relationship. We know your memory and spirit will continue to be with us for years to come. Rest peacefully in the loving arms of God.

Jane Schaefer