

June 15, 2022

Dear Associates and Sisters,

On Friday, June 10th Associate Jean Ascolese was called home to God. She was born on April 27th 1923 on the family farm in Hancock County outside of Forest City, Iowa.

Jean was commissioned an officer in the US Army Nurse Corps in April 1945 and was assigned to O’Reilly General Hospital in Springfield Missouri. It was through nursing and being in the service, that she met the love of her life, Mike. Jean and Mike married on April 7, 1947. Together they would build their family of six: Tim, Mark, Christopher, Richard, Kevin, and Jacqueline. In addition to their children, Jean and Mike were graced with 10 grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Jean was an active woman for many years. She became a registered nurse in 1944 and served as an army nurse in WWII. She volunteered at a local hospital, was a Eucharistic Minister to the homebound, hospitalized, and those in nursing homes, fed the homeless at “Our Daily Bread,” and babysat her grandchildren whenever she was able. She also helped the Sisters when they worked shifts at Kings Island. Jean’s life was rooted in service as she strove to meet the needs of others. She often had a smile on her face while enjoying the presence of others.

Jean found meeting with other Associates and Sisters a meaningful part of her life and through these gatherings, became more aware of God’s presence in her life and the life of others. When asked about her Associate relationship, Jean responded, “This relationship with the Oldenburg Franciscan Family is helping in my spiritual journey to the Kingdom of God, by helping me grow closer to Jesus and my Sisters.” Jean enjoyed attending Associate gatherings, days of prayer, lecture series, and becoming a contact person for other Prospective Associates.

Sr. Ruth Marie Kluemper served as Jean’s contact person in Jean’s discernment to becoming an Associate. Sr. Ruth shared, “We are like sisters, I connect with Jean as a friend rather than as an Associate contact person. She is a wonderful model of generosity and love for others. I am especially touched by her unselfishness” and Jean of Sr. Ruth,

“We are good friends, like family, we spend holidays together and enjoy our time together at other gatherings.” Jean signed her commitment on March 26th, 1995.

Jean, may you rest peacefully in the loving arms of God.

Jane Schaefer