



SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

PO BOX 100 OLDENBURG, IN 47036
WWW.OLDENBURGFRANCISCANS.ORG
FACEBOOK: FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF OLDENBURG



March 23, 2018

Dear Sisters, Associates, Co-workers, Friends and Relatives,

S. MILLIE SPEED, OSF

While Sister Kate Holohan sat beside her bed, softly singing “How Great Thou Art,” Sister Millie Speed quietly left this earthly life for eternal life. She was almost ninety-four years of age and had been a Franciscan Sister since 1939.

Millie was the third of five children, but always stated that her family had never been together. Two of her brothers died before she was born, and her father died two months after the birth of her youngest brother. The Speed children attended St. Clement School in the St. Bernard area of Cincinnati. Over the course of the history of the Oldenburg Franciscans, ninety-eight Sisters called St. Clement Parish their home parish and Millie was one of them. After graduating from elementary school, Millie attended Immaculate Conception Academy (Oldenburg Academy) and decided to enter the Franciscan community as S. Charles Helen, while in her sophomore year.

Always an eager learner, Millie earned degrees in education and English, qualifying her to teach and work in school administration for many years. She enjoyed all her teaching assignments, but the ones that gave her the most life were the seven years at St. Francis Seraph in Cincinnati and the fourteen years at Fenwick High School in Middletown, Ohio. At St. Francis Seraph, she was known in the neighborhood as the “Church Lady of Vine Street.” After a full day of teaching, she would walk the streets of Over-the-Rhine, seeking people with all kinds of needs and matching those people with agencies and organizations that she had carefully researched. At Fenwick High School, she became aware of the hunger for spiritual depth in the life of the students. She convinced the faculty and staff to plunge wholeheartedly into the Kairos Retreat Program. The spiritual transformation of the whole student body lasted well beyond Millie’s years of service there.

Millie’s own transformation is credited to what she learned from the Navajo people in her nine years of service in Tohatchi/Coyote Canyon in New Mexico. Her life-long interest in mission life and work blossomed in 1982 when she took over the Little Portion Club, writing the newsletter for the Club and accepting numerous engagements to speak on behalf of the foreign and home missions. The chance to live among the Navajo people fulfilled her ever-present belief that all people are equally God’s children and need to celebrate life with each other.

Our sympathy is extended to Millie’s nieces and nephews, the staff in St. Clare Hall who tended to her so gently and to her many former students and friends. All of us who knew her would

describe her as determined, generous, inquisitive and appreciative of all beauty surrounding her. With that in mind, we offer this closing prayer from a Navajo Blessing Ceremony:

*With beauty before me I walk
With beauty behind me I walk
With beauty above me I walk
With beauty around me I walk
It has become beauty again
It has become beauty again
It has become beauty again
It has become beauty again.*

In awe of a life well-lived,

Sister Margie Niemer OSF

Sister Margie Niemer
for the General Council

SISTER MILDRED (formerly S. Charles Helene) SPEED

Birth: June 15, 1924

Entrance into Religious Life: October 4, 1939

Entrance into Eternal Life: March 20, 2018

MISSIONS AT WHICH S. MILLIE SERVED:

1942-1944	St. Anthony, Streator, Illinois
1944-1950	St. Pius, Cincinnati, Ohio
1950-1951	St. Louis, Batesville, Indiana
1951-1952	St. Mary, Greensburg, Indiana
1952-1956	St. Anthony, Dayton, Ohio
1956-1957	St. James, White Oak, Cincinnati, Ohio
1957-1958	St. Aloysius, Bridgetown, Ohio
1958-1960	St. Vincent de Paul, Bedford, Indiana
1960-1965	Our Lady of Lourdes, Indianapolis, Indiana
1965-1969	St. Bartholomew, Cincinnati, Ohio
1969-1972	St. Catherine, Cincinnati, Ohio
1972-1974	Seccina high School, Indianapolis, Indiana
1974-1975	St. Charles Mission, Pryor, Montana
1975-1975	St. Xavier Mission, Montana
1975-1982	St. Francis Seraph, Cincinnati, Ohio
1982-1996	Fenwick High School, Middletown, Ohio
1996-2005	St. Mary Mission, Tohatchi, New Mexico
2005-2015	Little Portion Coordinator, Motherhouse, Oldenburg, Indiana
2015-2018	Retirement, Motherhouse, Oldenburg, Indiana

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Weigel Funeral Home – visit their website to view Sister’s online memorial, and if desired, an online condolence may be left on the site to share with her family and the Franciscan Sisters – www.Weigelfh.com

Memorial Donations in Sister’s memory may be given online at www.OldenburgFranciscans.org