

February 18, 2022



Dear Associates and Sisters,

On February 7, 2022, Associate Rose Marie Tilley passed into the loving arms of God. The niece of our Sr. Loretta Feeny (deceased), Rose Marie enjoyed visits to Oldenburg and getting to know many of the Sisters.

Rose Marie graduated from Little Flower Catholic School in 1956 and Seccina Memorial High School in 1960. Following High School, she attended Butler University earning an Associate Degree in Secretarial Science. Rose Marie along with four of her friends created JIOTZ (Just in Our Teens) Girls Club, which grew to 20 members. After her college years, Rose Marie was employed by Stewart Warner Corporation for 49 years.

Beginning her journey to the Associate Relationship in 2001, with her aunt Sr. Loretta as her contact person, Rose Marie felt right at home on the Oldenburg Franciscan Campus as she made many trips to pick up and or drop off aunt Loretta. Rose Marie signed her commitment on April 14, 2002 stating, ***“I will be dedicating myself to becoming closer to God, growing spiritually, being more active in the Oldenburg Community, providing service where possible to the Sisters, and being a more active member of my parish.”*** Many aspects of this commitment were lived out in her service to others.

Rose Marie grew closer to her God by reaching out to those most in need. The CFCA (Christian foundation for Children and Aging) was very close to her heart along with St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital where she financially supported young children for years. She supported a teen girl in South Africa on a monthly basis for many years. In her parish, St. Michael’s Catholic Church, Greenfield, she was active as a Eucharistic Minister, RCIA Sponsor, and participant and presenter in CHIRP (Christ Renews His Parish).

Rose Marie resonated with the Franciscan values of prayer and meditation. When she was still able to work, she would pray her rosary to and from work. She found her time in the car to be great meditation time. Sr. Loretta spoke of Rose Marie as “a prayerful person who provides a good example for others.” When the opportunity provided itself, Rose Marie attended gatherings here at the Motherhouse and other prayer day experiences within her parish and local community. Her Associate relationship was very important to her. Rose Marie’s oldest daughter Kathy informed me that her mother passed away wearing her Associate pin.

Rose Marie’s later years as an Associate did not come without its challenges as her health slowly diminished. She hung on to the gift of prayer for as long as she was able. We thank her for this gift that so many of us relied on throughout the years.

Rose Marie is survived by her husband of 57 years, William Jennings Tilley Jr, two daughters and a son. She is also survived by eight grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, with the fifth arriving in July.

Rose Marie, may you rest peacefully in the loving arms of God!

Jane Schaefer