



SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

PO BOX 100 OLDENBURG, IN 47036
WWW.OLDENBURGFRAUCISCANS.ORG



September 4, 2023

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

Finally, after celebrating 80 years as a Sister of St. Francis, Sister Patty Campbell journeyed on a little longer with us. Then after celebrating the Anointing of the Sick on Sunday, she responded on Monday to the call to celebrate in the presence of our loving God.

Patty was born to Harry and Edith Campbell in Dayton, Ohio as the eighth of 15 children. Officially she was named Patricia Ann. There was always fun to be had with her siblings, creating games, singing and putting on plays. In grade school, her teachers were Sisters of the Precious Blood, in Salem Heights, Ohio. Then four of the girls attended Immaculate Conception Academy (Oldenburg Academy). There she was referred to as S. Therese Ann's sister.

There have been many different chapters in Patty's life and she valued each one. As she entered the convent during World War II, she wanted to become a missionary to China. Several Sisters had already gone there. But her dream would never materialize. Initially, she was an elementary teacher and over the next 30 years continued to teach, eventually becoming a high school social studies teacher. During that time the community opened missions in Papua New Guinea and she volunteered. But again that was not to be.

Remembering a question posed by her novice director, S. Carlissa Riebenthaler, "Would you rather have people say she was a good teacher or a good cook or she was a very good religious?" she sought to deepen her religious profession. A combination of experiences like the Tertianship Program and a summer at a House of Prayer led her to time in a hermitage. During this time, icons became a form of prayer. But that was only the beginning.

Patty was led into a poustinia lifestyle as described by Catherine Doherty. She learned to blend the contemplative lifestyle of solitude with the active ministry of service. She put this lifestyle into practice at the Motherhouse as she spent four days a week as a nurse's assistant and three days in solitude. When the community began a House of Prayer, Patty was a core member for three years. Two gifts that she came to value deeply were listening and the prayerful understanding and use of Scripture.

The concept of poustinia stayed with her, as she recognized the true meaning of poustinia was having an open door to those in need of service. And so, she moved into pastoral work. She saw herself in service to the laity in Ohio, Oklahoma and Indiana. She organized renewal programs, Bible study groups, visited shut-ins, and was a volunteer hospital chaplain. She encouraged lay ministers in leadership.

Patty came to know the reality of living not only as a holy person but also a whole person. She took on wholistic life practices becoming a certified massage therapist and an accredited

teacher of T'ai Chi Chin. She gave retreats and did spiritual direction. She believed in spiritual direction for the spiritual director, therapy with a good counselor for the health of the mind, exercise in moderation, and hobbies. Journaling and art as well as gardening, cooking, sewing and crafts rounded out her life.

Not all questions were answered during her time of solitude, but she grew in her ability to be at peace while living with the questions and problems.

Namaste which means "I bow to the divine in you" became her greeting. When performing the *Namaste* salutation, you merely recognize that there is a divine entity in every person. Therefore, the sacred body in yourself will be saluting the holy being in the person you are greeting.

We extend our deepest sympathy to S. Patty's living siblings, Collette, Susanna and William, many nieces and nephews, other relatives, and to her Sisters and Associates in Community. Our special thanks and sympathy to our nursing staff in St. Clare Hall and to the Pastoral Care team who so lovingly cared for S. Patty.

We are grateful for the richness of S. Patty's life.

In joyful memory,



S. Annette Grisley

For the General Council

SISTER PATTY (formerly S. Suzanne) CAMPBELL

Birth: December 24, 1926

Entered Religious Life: September 8, 1943

Entered Eternal Life: September 4, 2023

MISSIONS AT WHICH S. PATTY SERVED:

1945-1947	St. Aloysius, Bridgetown, Cincinnati, OH	1975 -1979	House of Prayer, Cincinnati, OH
1947-1951	Holy Rosary, Indianapolis, IN	1980-1987	St. Peter, Chillicothe, OH
1951-1957	St. Lawrence, Indianapolis, IN	1987-1992	St. Agnes/Holy Trinity, Antlers, OK
1957-1963	St. Aloysius, Bridgetown, Cincinnati, OH	1992-1993	Wholistic Growth Resources, Little Falls, MN
1963-1969	Seccina H.S., Indianapolis, IN	1993-2000	Motherhouse, Oldenburg, IN
1969-1974	Carroll H.S., Dayton, OH	2000-2008	St. Mary of the Rock, Franklin County, IN
1974-1975	Hermitage, South Bend, IN	2008-2023	Motherhouse, Oldenburg, IN.

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