



SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

PO BOX 100 OLDENBURG, IN 47036

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FACEBOOK: FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF OLDENBURG



S. MARIE WERDMANN, OSF

May 4, 2015

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

Sister Marie Werdmann danced into the arms of her God at 5:45 PM on Wednesday, April 29. She was undoubtedly singing alleluias as she left her fragile body and returned home.

Marie, the fourth child of John and Maria (Sander) Werdmann, was born on October 19, 1929 in Cincinnati, Ohio. She was welcomed by her older brothers (Charlie, John and Louis) and was later joined by her sister Anne. Her friends and family affectionately called her Tootie.

In her autobiography, Marie describes her mother as a pious woman who often read stories about saints to the children. One of the first saints that Marie identified with was Therese (the Little Flower) who was known to be stubborn and independent. Noting those same traits in herself, Marie decided at about 3 or 4 years of age that she would be a Carmelite! She notes in her writing that she discovered boys at age 5 and quickly forgot about the Carmelites.

Marie attended St. Clare Grade School and Our Lady of Angels High School. During her high school years, the realization that she was being called to religious life resurfaced. She explored a number of options during her senior year before one of her teachers helped her to realize that she belonged at Oldenburg. She entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg in September 1947.

During her life in Community, S. Marie was active in a variety of ministries. She taught in grade schools in Indiana and Ohio, worked in archdiocesan offices and parishes in Indiana, served as a missionary in Mexico, was a staff member at our spirituality center in St. Louis, MO, held positions for the congregation, and ministered to “those who have less” while she tutored GED. S. Marie’s passion was working with, and for, the poor and marginalized. S. Marie was loved by all to whom she ministered. The people of Lower Price Hill considered her an angel. She wrote that “each encounter has made a difference in me.” Each day, she learned from Mother Earth and from every person she encountered.

The readings that S. Marie selected for her funeral liturgy capture the spirit of her life. In the Gospel (Matthew 6:25-30) we hear that we should not worry about trivial things but rather trust that our God will take care of us. Psalm 27 proclaims that “the Lord is my light and my salvation” reminding us that we should not be afraid. S. Marie lived every day knowing that her God was giving her the strength to do what was hers to do. She faithfully witnessed God’s love to everyone she met – every day of her life.

We extend our sympathy to S. Marie's family, especially her brother John and her sister-in-law Mary Jane and her cousins, nieces and nephews. We offer our support and prayers to S. Marie's classmates: Sisters Marta Aiken, Timothy Kavanaugh, Irene Hoff, Claire Whalen, Kathleen McCarthy, and Ginny Van Benten as well as all of her Sisters, Associates, and friends.

We are grateful for all who cared for S. Marie over the years, especially the wonderful nursing staff and the pastoral care team.

As we remember and celebrate S. Marie, let us walk gently on the earth. Let us sing and dance among all peoples as we practice random acts of kindness. Let us embrace each moment of every day and gratefully "tip our hats" as we delight in all that S. Marie taught us.

With love and gratitude,



Sister Mary Beth Gianoli
for the General Council

SISTER MARIE WERDMANN - *formerly S. Louis Clare*

Birth: October 19, 1929

Entrance into Religious Life: September 12, 1947

Entrance into Eternal Life: April 29, 2015

MISSIONS AT WHICH S. MARIE SERVED:

1949-1952	Holy Rosary, Indianapolis, IN
1952-1961	St. Bernard, Winton Place, Cincinnati, OH
1961-1963	St. Joseph, Evansville, IN
1963-1969	St. Monica, Indianapolis, IN
1969-1972	St. Gabriel, Indianapolis, IN
1972-1973	Archdiocesan Office of Religious Education, Indpls., IN
1973-1979	St. Rita/St. Bridget Parishes, Indianapolis, IN
1979-1985	Director of Office of Personal Growth, Motherhouse, Oldenburg, IN
1985-1990	Holy Cross Parish, Indianapolis, IN
1990-1991	Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico
1991-1993	Director of Associates, Motherhouse, Oldenburg, IN
1993-1997	Nia Kuumba, St. Louis, MO
1994-1997	St. Elizabeth Adult Day Care Center
1997-2006	Americor Literacy, Cincinnati, OH
2006-2015	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