



## SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

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



S. ROSEMARY LEE, OSF

August 30, 2018

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

This evening, shortly before the Labor Day weekend began, Sister Rosemary Lee laid to rest her own labors of a long lifetime. Sisters Evelyn and Alacoque had been called to be with her around midnight, but it was only about 5:00 p.m., when the workday was completed, that she handed over her spirit to the God whom she had served so faithfully for so long.

Rosemary was born to Joseph and Rose Lee, the youngest of a family that included three brothers. She wrote in her autobiography that she “loved sports because my brothers did, and I was always in the cheering section for them.” She herself loved to play softball and two-hand touch football. It was at St. Mary Academy that she met our Franciscan Sisters; it was their example, she reported, that had a lasting impression on her. Rosemary’s freshman retreat made her think about prayer and about the direction her life might take. She felt she could always talk to one of the Sisters, who then answered her questions and assured her of continued prayers. It was, perhaps, those prayers and the fruit of that retreat which led her to Oldenburg in 1940.

Sister Damien Marie (Rosemary) had a 35-year teaching career in primary grades in Indiana and Ohio schools. One day while at Greensburg, though not the principal, Rosemary called a faculty meeting. Teachers arrived, only to be treated to milk and cookies!

The last eighteen years of her active ministry found Rosemary at Marian College (now University). The author of a feature story in the *Marian Magnet* wrote,

“Anyone who knows Sister Rosemary Lee might think of her as the Master Sergeant of her domain—the mailroom. When students, faculty and staff members want to be sure their postage is correct, envelopes sealed, or packages weighed accurately, they venture to Sister Rosemary’s camp where they are sure to receive her reliable service and one-of-a-kind greetings.

In her spare time, Sister Rosemary no longer plays softball or two-handed touch football, but settles for watching football and basketball games, mostly on television. If her schedule permits, Sister Rosemary watches the Marian Knights hoop on their home court (although she admits that her favorite basketball team is Notre Dame). One may also see her and Buttons, the Sisters’ community dog, strolling through the campus around lunchtime, as all weekday lunch breaks are reserved for this routine.”

While at Marian, it was obvious that Rosemary dearly loved the students. Friends describe her as pleasant, a woman of few words but with a subtle humor, and one who devoted much time to working for the poor. Crocheting, as well as collecting stamps and miniature international flags,

occupied Rosemary's free time. Producing beautiful hooked rugs was a specialty. Attending a local craft fair on the day after Thanksgiving became for Rosemary an event religiously observed.

We extend our sympathy to Rosemary's nieces and nephews, particularly to Karen her godchild, as well as to her Sister-companions and friends. We offer much gratitude to our nursing and pastoral care staff who cared for Rosemary these many years.

As evident from the funeral liturgy which she planned, the image of God as Good Shepherd seemed to be a favorite. We can be comforted in hearing there Isaiah's recounting of God's words addressed to our sister Rosemary: "Like a shepherd I feed my flock; hugging you in my arms."

Sister Rosemary, may you rest secure in that loving embrace.

In grateful remembrance,



Sister Christa Franzer  
*For the General Council*

SISTER ROSEMARY (formerly S. Damien Marie) LEE, OSF

Birth: July 25, 1922

Entrance into Religious Life: September 8, 1940

Entrance into Eternal Life: August 30, 2018

MISSIONS AT WHICH S. ROSEMARY SERVED:

1942-1943	St. Andrew, Richmond, IN
1943-1946	St. Mary, New Albany, IN
1946-1955	Sacred Heart, Clinton, IN
1955-1960	St. Ann, Hamilton, OH
1960-1961	St. Vincent, Vincennes, IN
1961-1963	St. Mary, Greensburg, IN
1963-1964	St. Mary, North Vernon, IN
1964-1969	St. Francis, Cincinnati, OH
1969-1971	St. Rita, Indianapolis, IN
1971-1976	Holy Name, Beech Grove, IN
1976-1977	St. Mark, Indianapolis, IN
1977-1978	Sacred Heart, Clinton, IN
1978-1996	Marian (College) University, Indianapolis, IN
1996-2018	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](http://www.Weigelfh.com)*

*Memorial Donations in Sister's memory may be given online at [www.OldenburgFranciscans.org](http://www.OldenburgFranciscans.org)*