



## SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

PO BOX 100 OLDENBURG, IN 47036

WWW.OLDENBURGFRAUCISCANS.ORG

FACEBOOK: FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF OLDENBURG



S. MARY JOEL FRANKS, OSF

September 2, 2015

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

Last week S. Joel said, "I'm on my way" and three days later Sister Death came to take her home. Sisters had been keeping prayerful watch as relatives and friends began stopping by. She died peacefully, fully conscious to the end.

Marilyn Anne, later to become known as Sister Mary Joel, was born September 14, 1936, in Dayton, Ohio. She was the fourth of five children in the family of Robert and Cathryn (Link) Franks. Her two brothers died before Marilyn was born. At age nine, Marilyn lost both of her parents, five weeks apart, each with a cerebral hemorrhage. For the next four years Marilyn and her younger sister Pauline lived with their aunt and uncle. The two were then adopted by their older sister Margaret and her husband. This meant a move to Cincinnati. There Marilyn attended Our Lady of the Angels High School and became acquainted with the Sisters of St. Francis.

Responding to her call to religious life, she entered the convent September 8, 1954. Two years later she began her teaching career in the Catholic elementary schools of Indiana and Ohio. After thirteen years in the classroom, S. Joel was asked to become principal of Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in New Albany. During her twelve years as administrator she upgraded the school by starting a kindergarten program, establishing a school library and adding a science lab. As principal her main focus was always having good teachers who could give students the best possible education.

S. Joel's own educational career included a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education from Marian University, a Master's degree in education from Clarke College, along with administration, finance and business coursework from Indiana Central, Butler and Ball State Universities.

In 1981, S. Joel began a thirty-four year ministry at Marian University. She served nine years as an assistant in the business office, eleven years as the college treasurer followed by fourteen years as a library technician. She was also one of Marian's most faithful sports fans, never missing a home football game. Due to her enthusiasm, people would love to sit next to her at a game.

Leisure time found Joel, in the company of her dog, enjoying a good book, listening to music, solving crossword puzzles or following her favorite professional teams on TV. She also generously served on our community's finance committee and served as the secretary of that committee.

Joel was considered a private person with a generous heart, brilliant mind and quiet sense of humor. Sisters she lived with looked to her to handle the local community's business and financial affairs, much of the cooking, and personal care-giving. At her most recent missions she was the one to take Sisters to their doctor's appointments, and to give compassionate support and attention to each before she retired to Oldenburg.

The following favorite scriptural passages of Joel personify her life and the great love and care she gave others.

*“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs....It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.....For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face.”*

*Corinthians 13:4-13*

*“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep....” John 10:14-18*


Yes, following the example of St. Francis, in Joel’s own, humble spirit she truly loved others in a non-judgmental, accepting and healing way. Devoted to the Good Shepherd she knew those in her fold, loved and cared for them.

When visiting Joel in the hospital or St. Clare Hall and asking her, “How are you?” her characteristic reply was always “Fine and dandy!” Now, Joel, you are “Fine and dandy” in the loving arms of God.

We extend our prayers and sympathy to Joel’s sister Pauline, her cousins, nieces and nephews, as well as friends, co-workers and classmates (Sisters Kate, Rachel, Rene’, Bernetta, André, Joan, Marian, Mary Walter, Cleopha, Amy, Tecla, Elna, Mary, Lucy and Donna). We also extend sympathy to S. Stella, S. Ruth Ann and the Marian University Community.

We thank our nursing staff in St. Clare Hall who ministered to Joel during these last weeks of her illness, as well as all those who gave such loving care to her.

In loving gratitude,



Sister Joanita Koors, OSF  
for the Council

S. MARY JOEL FRANKS, OSF– (*Marilyn*)

Birth: September 14, 1936

Entrance into Religious Life: September 8, 1954

Entrance into Eternal Life: August 29, 2015

#### MISSIONS AT WHICH S. JOEL SERVED:

1956-1957	St. Mark, Indianapolis, IN
1957-1958	St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg, IN
1958-1960	Our Lady of Mercy, Dayton, OH
1960-1961	St. James, White Oak, Cincinnati, OH
1961-1966	Sacred Heart, Hamilton, OH
1966-1967	Holy Name, Beech Grove, IN
1967-1969	Little Flower, Indianapolis, IN
1969-1981	Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany, IN
1981-2015	Marian University, Indianapolis, IN
2015-2015	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](http://www.Weigelfh.com)*

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