

FRANCISCANS



SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS
OLDENBURG, INDIANA

SUMMER 2022 Vol. 52 No. 2

INSIDE

3

Donor Spotlight

*Jim & Mary Jo Royston
Interviewed by S. Maureen Irvin, OSF*

4-11

Congratulations to Our Sister Jubilarians!

- ◆ S. Dominica Doyle, OSF
- ◆ S. Jean Sora, OSF
- ◆ S. Irene Hoff, OSF
- ◆ S. Timothy Kavanaugh, OSF
- ◆ S. Virginia van Benten, OSF
- ◆ S. Claire Whalen, OSF
- ◆ S. Doris Holohan, OSF
- ◆ S. Janice Scheidler, OSF
- ◆ S. Marya Grathwohl, OSF
- ◆ S. Diane Jamison, OSF
- ◆ S. Marlene Kochert, OSF
- ◆ S. Margaret Maher, OSF
- ◆ S. Carol Ann Mause, OSF
- ◆ S. Daria Mitchell, OSF
- ◆ S. Barbara Riemensperger, OSF
- ◆ S. Mary Moster, OSF
- ◆ S. Donna Prickel, OSF
- ◆ S. Mary Beth Hefli, OSF
- ◆ S. Ann Marie Quinn, OSF
- ◆ S. Susan Johnson, OSF

12-17

Music is the prayer the heart sings.

*Sister Musicians & Cantors
By: Sue Stiefert*

18-19

Franciscan Friendship

*Richmond, Indiana Associates
By: Jane Schaefer*

20

OFC's Events

21

Notables

22-23

Resting in God

- ◆ S. Judith Werner, OSF
- ◆ S. Marilyn Hofer, OSF
- ◆ S. Dolores Meyer, OSF
- ◆ S. Elna Stemann, OSF
- ◆ S. Kathleen Mulso, OSF

Celebrate



*Music
is the
prayer
the
heart sings.*



S. BARBARA LEONHARD, OSF
Councilor

Dear Friends,

Summer is upon us, and it is a season of celebration! The earth is alive with flowers and gardens of all kinds. The laughter of young and old enjoying picnics, walks, and everything from blowing bubbles to grilling outdoors makes us realize that joy and celebration is an important part of living. If there is one thing Franciscans love to do, it is celebrating together!

Even the name of our magazine, *Celebrate*, suggests that rejoicing is part of our nature. The celebration of Jubilee is one of my favorite Community times together. At Liturgy on this day, we seem to pray and sing with special gusto. It is a day when we acknowledge the incredible life journeys of each person celebrating 25, 40, 50, 60, 70, 75, and 80 years in religious life. You will enjoy reading snippets of our Jubilarians' stories. No doubt, you will notice the theme of joy in their lives, their ministries, and in the ways they have come to experience God.

The 12th century mystic, author and composer, Hildegard of Bingen, wrote: "*Music stirs our hearts and engages our souls in ways we can't describe.*" In the article about our Community musicians, we recognize the truth of Hildegard's words as it resonates in each of their lives. Whether music is one's full-time ministry or a gift shared alongside many other responsibilities, it is clearly both joy and prayer for each of them.

Associate Jane Schaefer writes about yet another source and expression of celebration within the Franciscan family: developing and nurturing friendships. She focuses on the Associates in Richmond, Indiana, a group that has a long history of gathering and creating supportive bonds. Enjoy meeting some of these fun-loving and prayerful women.

Another form of community celebration, though bitter-sweet, is gathering for funerals. Five of our Sisters have journeyed home to God in recent months. At each Liturgy marking their entrance into new and fuller life, we both rejoiced with them and grieved the loss of their presence with us. Singing their favorite songs and listening to readings of particular meaning for them, we smiled at stories remembered and considered the unique gifts and wisdom each one shared with us.

Finally, we join in prayer and gratitude for all our benefactors. On the back cover you will find a heartfelt prayer written by S. Edna Martini. It gives us joy to hold all of our readers in prayer.

Blessings in this season of celebration,

S. Barb Leonhard
S. Barbara Leonhard, OSF
For the General Council



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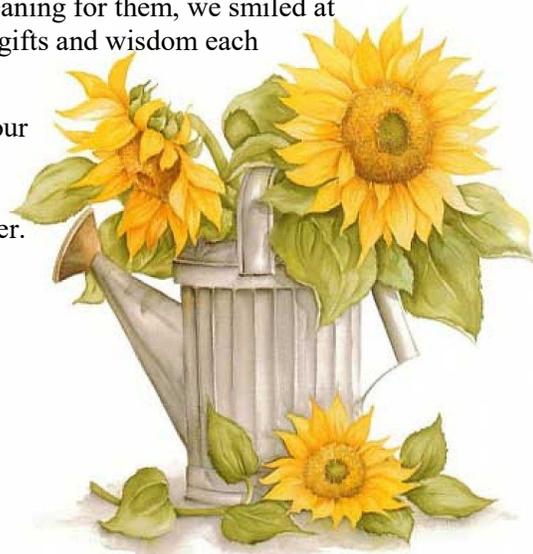
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Meet the Roystons

S. Maureen Irvin, OSF Interviews Jim and Mary Jo Royston

Jim and Mary Jo (Hinterlong) Royston have supported the Sisters of St. Francis financially for most of their adult lives. They are grateful to the Sisters who taught both of them, as well as their two sons, Thomas and Andrew. Perhaps it was that early Franciscan influence that caused Jim and Mary Jo to share many of the values and concerns of the Sisters to this day. They strongly desire to make this world a better place by promoting, peace, harmony, respect and care for the environment.

Jim grew up in St. Bernard, Ohio (an independent community in the heart of Cincinnati). He has been a member of St. Clement Parish for all of his 79 years. He attended St. Clement grade school, Roger Bacon High School, and earned a Bachelor's degree in history and a Master's degree in education from Xavier University. He worked for Proctor and Gamble for 34 ½ years in research, helping to develop laundry and cleaning products. Jim had five sisters, including Oldenburg Franciscans S. Carol Royston and S. Eileen Royston, both now deceased.

Mary Jo was from Carthage, a neighborhood in Cincinnati, not far from St. Bernard. She attended St. Charles grade school and Our Lady of the Angels High School and graduated from The Jewish Hospital School of Nursing and earned a Bachelor's degree in nursing from Xavier University. The RN worked at Cincinnati Children's Hospital for 18 years. Jim and Mary Jo were married in 1966 and had two sons who have given them three granddaughters.

Their son Tom's favorite teacher was S. Anthony Marie Schwetschenau. She taught him the importance of school and a good work ethic. He is now head of the bioengineering department at the University of Illinois at Chicago. When S. Eileen died from MS after suffering for fourteen years, Tom was able to reconnect with S. Anthony Marie at the funeral liturgy. It was a great time of updating and sharing memories.

Both Jim and Mary Jo's first impressions of the Sisters were their dedication to teaching and their love of helping children to learn. They now describe the Sisters as focused on their ministry, selfless and giving. Mary Jo remembers S. Jeri Fuhrmann and S. Margie Niemer as her choir directors at St. Clement Parish. She said they made singing in the choir fun. The Roystons appreciate the Sisters' global vision and concern. They choose to contribute to the Community financially "to help the Sisters spread the Good News and prepare thousands of people for the next life with God."



Jim & Mary Jo (Hinterlong) Royston

Jim was a distance runner for 30 years. He and others at P&G used to run at lunch time. From the ages of 35 to 60, Jim ran 32 marathons. Now he likes to play golf and work in his vegetable garden. Mary Jo is proud to have gotten their home listed on the National Register of Historic Places. She likes to walk, plays a little golf and sings in the choir. Jim says she is also a great cook and a wonderful seamstress.

When asked if they had a philosophy of life, Jim said, **"Love is a one-way street. We are to love without expecting anything in return."** Mary Jo said, **"I am my brother's keeper."** They have surely lived these values. They think the world would be a better place if peace and harmony were promoted on a global scale, if people recognized that we are all part of the same human race and if there were more concern for the needy and the environment. Jim and Mary Jo contribute to many Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and charitable organizations besides the Sisters of St. Francis. They concentrate on those who provide food, housing, education, security and medical care throughout the world. They also support the Southern Poverty Law Center and its work for racial harmony and against hate and hate crimes. Mary Jo is a strong proponent of education, believing that a good education is the basis for everything else.

Jim believes others would describe him as quiet, kind and enduring. He sees himself as laid back, interested in global events and a good listener. Mary Jo sees herself as reliable, dependable and consistent. Jim says she is also industrious and caring.

We are grateful to Jim and Mary Jo Royston for their faithful support of the Sisters of St. Francis over the years. We hope that we can continue to partner with them for many years to come in responding to the needs of our world and following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ.

Congratulations to our



80 YEARS

S. DOMINICA DOYLE

Dominica started her ministry in 1944 and taught grade school for 21 years. She shared, “I feel like the background that I had in being raised in Catholic education gave me a love for being a teacher...”

In 1965 Dominica was hired as principal of St. Michael School in Brookville. Fr. Beidelman, the pastor at St. Michael’s at the time of Dominica’s retirement, said, “Sister’s wisdom and generous service have been an anchor for the Catholic community in Brookville for 39 years!” Dominica was in charge of Religious Education in the CCD program and the Youth CYO program in the parish and participated as a team member for RCIA. The parish also created a scholarship in her name for 7th grade students and high school seniors. In 2001 she received the *Distinguished Service Award* for 35 years of service to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

When Dominica retired to Oldenburg, she found plenty to do. She provided pastoral care in St. Clare Hall for several years. More recently she kept involved with education, volunteering in the Finance Office at Oldenburg Academy. Another award came in 2015 when she was named Oldenburg Academy’s *Volunteer of the Year*.



80 YEARS

S. JEAN SORA

A former student described Jean as a “confident, bold, assertive, sassy woman.” Jean lived up to that description all of her life as she ministered through her music.

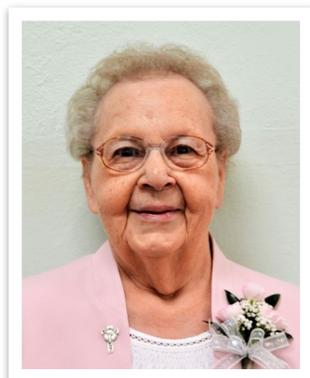
She was organist and choir director at New Albany, Indiana and music teacher at St. Clement School in St. Bernard. But Jean went beyond just playing the music. She organized bands that played at the Cincinnati Reds Opening Day for several years and played for John F. Kennedy and later for Bob Hope when they each visited Cincinnati.

Jean worked as Parish Minister at St. John’s Parish in Middletown for 30 years. While playing the organ and directing the choir, she also ran the bingos and saw that those in need got food and clothes when they came. In her free time she visited shut-ins and started a “Young at Heart” club that met monthly.

Jean noted that “It’s important people see a difference because we’re here.” And the people whose lives she touched would say they did.



Sister Jubilarians



75 YEARS

S. IRENE HOFF

If you encountered Irene and began to chat about ministries she was part of during her 75 years as a Sister of St. Francis, you would hear her utter over and over “I loved every minute of it.” It would not matter whether it was teaching, opening a brand new school, the orphanage, motherhouse dietician or sewing for the Sisters.

After 27 years in education, the Community needed a dietician, so knowing Irene’s skill in cooking learned as a child, she was asked to study dietetics in preparation for the Motherhouse diet kitchen reorganization. So off to Purdue University Irene went to study, then back to the Motherhouse to help combine the diet kitchen, a separate operation, with the general kitchen to improve both operations.

In this capacity she and chief cook S. Mary Claire Hausfeld developed a strong bond which continues to this day. With more energy yet, Irene was asked to turn to the sewing room, where her skills learned early in life were called upon to provide service to many needs for the infirmary, general mending for the Sisters and household projects.

A final ministry, managing the Community’s heritage collection allowed Irene to call forth her creativity to display, among things from the Community’s past, artifacts from foreign missions, from ministries to indigenous peoples and the artwork of our Sister-artists.

Still “loving every minute” of her service to her Creator and God’s people, Irene’s cheerfulness and laughter are shared with all whom she encounters.

75 YEARS

S. TIMOTHY KAVANAUGH

If you don’t catch Timothy’s last name, you will certainly recognize the “Irish” in her smiling Irish eyes and the “wee bit of blarney” in the stories she shares.

Native to Indiana, Timothy is the fourth born of seven children. At the young age of six she found herself being drawn to the Franciscan way of life after listening to her teacher talk about the goodness in the children at Vincennes orphanage who were taught by the Franciscan Sisters.

Following the Divine within her, Timothy set out on the path that led her to over 50 years of teaching. Not all of those years were in the classroom, but from the start, children and all who were part of her world were drawn to Timothy and her kind and gentle ways of teaching, motivating, inspiring and loving.

Recognizing her leadership skills and her ability to call forth the best in people, Timothy was asked to take on the role of Principal. After serving six years in this new position in Evansville she was assigned to St. Gabriel parish in Indianapolis where she served as Principal for 14 years. At the request of her pastor, Timothy served in the position of Pastoral Associate, and when the parish introduced the program known as “Christ Renews His Parish”, Timothy added to her responsibilities and ministered as Spiritual Director in this program for eight years. She was part of St. Gabriel parish family for over 34 years. She recognized that, because she was willing to be open to service, she too was changed as her own relationship with God grew and blossomed.

Timothy is a kind soul, soft spoken, wonderful listener and gentle guide. Her smile and the twinkle in her eyes are both welcoming and reassuring. Timothy continues to minister in the Sisters’ Office of Communications, and to all of her Sisters at home.



Congratulations to our Sister Jubilee

75 YEARS

S. VIRGINIA VAN BENTEN

As Virginia Marie (Ginney) van Benten grew to school age, she attended Holy Name School in Beech Grove, where she first met Franciscan Sisters. From those early years she especially remembers Sisters Rose Ann and Leopold. She fondly remembers helping in the classroom and sacristy and being friends with the Sisters.

Ginney was a bright student, and won a scholarship to the Immaculate Conception Academy (ICA) at Oldenburg when she graduated from Holy Name. Attending ICA was a challenge at first because she felt “tied down” and unable to roam the woods, go biking or swimming as she had at home, but she honored her father’s wishes and returned for her sophomore year. She eventually came to love her time there, and graduated in 1946.

After working as a dispatcher during the summer, she entered Marian College with a four-year scholarship. After three semesters, she began to consider seriously the future direction of her life. She decided to enter St. Agnes Novitiate in February of 1948.

As a Sister of St. Francis, Ginny completed her degree at Marian College and obtained a degree in library science at Rosary College in River Forest, Illinois. She did additional training at Purdue University and Butler University in Indiana, and Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, Louisiana, and Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis.

She has ministered as a teacher at seven grade schools, one high school, and two colleges: Marian, and Donnelly College in Kansas City. She also served as a Director of Religious Education at St. Susanna’s in Plainfield, Indiana, and as Director of Personnel Services and Coordinator of Co-worker Services at the Motherhouse. She remarked that all of her ministries were important. “They were a part of my development.” Now retired, she notes that she still enjoys reading, listening to music—and likes to watch football. She said she has enjoyed her life as a Franciscan. “It’s a happy life. I’m content.”



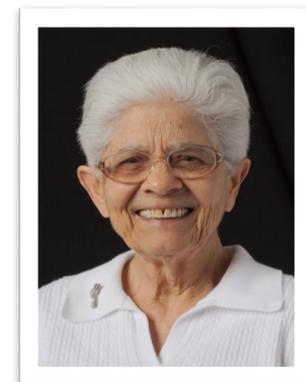
75 YEARS

S. CLAIRE WHALEN

Claire says, “I like to make things happen.” Through the spark of God residing in her, she has done this for 75 years. Her Community-recognized and cultivated gifts allow her to accomplish good things within and beyond the Community. She realizes her God-given gifts allow her to instigate good change in the world. She has a phenomenal capacity for envisioning what could be and finding a way to embody the vision with the help of others.

Claire’s energy, interests, and creativity are unending. There is always a new project on the horizon. Her strong intuitive, thinker, judger functions have contributed to all she accomplishes as well as her ability to be honest, straightforward, a truth teller, and a risk taker.

As an educator, administrator, innovator, and as an “environmental evangelist”, Claire has been a trail blazer literally at Michaela Farm and figuratively in various arenas of life including political and agricultural action groups formed to “make things happen.” Claire is a locally and nationally-known Franciscan treasure. Her motto throughout her Franciscan life has been “my God and my all”. She gives her all to whatever she does.





70 YEARS

S. DORIS HOLOHAN

Doris along with her siblings, Sisters Cecilia and Kathryn (Kate), not only drew their vocations from a family of 16 children, but embraced the call to foreign missionary service in Papua New Guinea. Doris remembers that her mother recognized she had a religious vocation and helped to foster it by inviting her to join the Lay Third Order group during her high school days. “Three of us having been called from the same family is a grace from God.” Even before their entrances into religious life in 1940, 1953 and 1954 respectively, Sisters Cecilia, Doris and Kate had each sensed a desire to work as missionaries.

Doris taught primary and intermediate grades for 10 years in Indiana and Ohio before going to Papua New Guinea in 1966 where she ministered as a teacher, Assistant Administrator at the Teachers College, Personality and Human Relations (PRH) educator, and advisor to the native Franciscan Sisters of Mary. Doris related that her favorite ministry was being a PRH educator in Papua New Guinea.

Doris learned about PRH in 1981 when she took part in an eight-month course in the Philippines for Formaters in Religious Communities in preparation for her involvement with the Franciscan Sisters of Mary of Papua New Guinea. At that time, a PRH session called “Who Am I?” was part of the course which also included five other PRH sessions. It was her introduction to PRH and its process. In her words, “As I learned about it, I felt that this is for me! This is what I’ve been looking for in my own life!” Because of the ongoing nature of PRH, Doris frequently attended workshops, taking new sessions and keeping her certification updated. In 1999 Doris was coordinator of a committee that prepared and gave the workshop for Educators in Thailand. She travelled across Papua New Guinea and the surrounding islands giving the sessions to help others live more fully. She experienced these sessions as being life-giving to hundreds of women and men from the educated to the illiterate.



70 YEARS

S. JANICE SCHEIDLER

Janice was born a country girl in Millhousen, Indiana to parents who were devoted Catholics. As a young girl she loved life, music, dances, and parties. Each family member played a musical instrument and Janice was the accompanist on the piano. After high school she worked as a secretary to lawyers in Greensburg. She soon realized there was more to life and that only God would satisfy her inmost desires.

Janice has been and continues to be a person of service to others. While ministering as the Assistant Treasurer at the Motherhouse she was known to wash windows and mow grass whenever she got a chance. She continues to be a servant to all as she is always the one offering to help another Sister in whatever way she can.

The Sisters’ Activities Coordinator, Mary Ellen Rinklin, says of Janice: “From the beginning of us working together in the fall of 2013 I knew I was extremely fortunate to have Janice paired with the Activity Department. Active she is! I call her the Energizer Bunny because she never seems to tire and would always hook my arm and choose the steps instead of the elevator. Hopping up on a chair to help with party decorations and zooming under the table for stray balls was not what I was expecting from an 86-year old. Her agility is legendary! Janice is a great sounding board and has always been such a positive influence, encouraging my brainstorming of new games or activities. She has a sixth sense of knowing what will go over well and what needs tweaking. Janice always calls me “Boss”, which makes me laugh, but she has the humble heart of a servant finding no pile of dirty dishes, folding tablecloths, or mundane cutting and pasting job not to her liking. She finds true joy in serving others. She is always supportive, has keen insight and a ready smile, laugh, and hug which is why she is the perfect partner for this ministry.”

Congratulations to our Sister Jubilee

60 YEARS ~ S. MARYA GRATHWOHL

In the 60 years Marya has been in the Community she has served as an educator, Administrator, Pastoral Minister, and an entrepreneur. Marya has been a world traveler, Retreat/Spiritual Director and Workshop Facilitator. She is a book author—watch for *Earth Hope: An Unexpected Spiritual Journey*. She is a creative, free spirit who always brings a grounded freshness to anything she undertakes.

When asked what she would like people to know about her life in community, she responded: “I began with a desire to become a priest: to participate intimately in the sacred. I discovered in novitiate St. Francis’ reverence for the brotherhood and sisterhood of all that exists.

Teaching in Kansas City, Missouri., I saw the brutality of systemic racial inequality and the resolve and resilience of the African-American community we served. Serving among the Crow and Northern Cheyenne I learned from people who preserved ancestral connection with and profound wisdom toward all creation. Eight years in Community leadership as part of a wise, compassionate, and fun team of visionary women who nurtured my gifts and priorities.

A 60-year journey into Earth Hope—as ministry, lifestyle, and source of joy. Ultimately, a true and intimate participation in the sacred.”



60 YEARS ~ S. DIANE JAMISON

Diane is a St. Bernard girl chosen by God, called to follow intensely her Beloved. Her call came through the image of God and life she saw lived by S. Teresa Marie Boersig, her seventh grade math teacher at St. Clement School. “I wanted what she had,” Diane says.

As a full-time student in Franciscan Studies at St. Bonaventure she states, “I studied for the pure joy of what I was learning.” It was a hand-in-glove fit for her when she taught the course entitled, “Franciscan Person” three semesters at Marian University.

Diane’s organizational skills gained her opportunities of serving in several directional positions: Christian Formation (RCIA), Religious Education, Religious Formation, Spiritual Direction, Retreats, and Ongoing Formation. Diane has also served on several committees within Community, archdiocesan, national and is presently an active member of the Board of Margaret Mary Health in Batesville.

As a vocal choir member, Diane appreciates the opportunity to join her voice in the prayerful praise of her Beloved. Diane describes one of her living experiences: “It was the best of times; it was the worst of times.” She emerged as the Franciscan she is today. A cancer survivor, she lives her belief that God is always with us, giving us what we need.



60 YEARS ~ S. MARLENE KOCHERT

Throughout her years in religious life, Marlene has found people to be the most important and life-giving aspect of her ministry. As an Oldenburg Franciscan, Marlene has been with the Navajo people in New Mexico for over thirty-one years, serving seven years at Christ the King in Shiprock and over twenty-four years at St. Mary Mission in Tohatchi.

Marlene stepped gently into Navajo life with no expectations of herself or others. She walks with an open mind and a listening heart to find life and meaning well beyond where she might have imagined. Marlene has worn many hats over these years in Tohatchi. She has taken on all the responsibilities in planning liturgies, religious education classes, and funerals.

Marlene works with the parish groups and social services, including the food pantry, thrift shop and home visits. All of these require a great deal of energy, flexibility and skill.

The Franciscan is a dynamic, informed, and interesting tour guide. She has information that the average person does not know because she is trusted, respected and loved by the people who have shared their lives with her. When Marlene travels out to visit the people, you will see her at her best. She is able to step into each individual’s world and allow them to know that they are so very important to her.

Marlene is gentle and kind, always willing to help with anyone in need. Whether it is a phone call at any hour, a visitor at the door, or someone stopping her anywhere they might see her, she will make herself present to listen and to help in any way.

Marlene is truly “gift” to our Navajo sisters and brothers.





60 YEARS ~ S. MARGARET MAHER

Margaret “Peg” attended St. Clement School and Our Lady of Angels High School. After graduation, she entered the Sisters of St. Francis on September 8, 1962. When asked what drew her to the Sisters, Peg answered, “Watching Sisters Rose Agnes and Emma Marie and seeing how they lived their lives. I didn’t know that priests or nuns were anything else but Franciscan when I was a child. I had never met a Priest or Sister who wasn’t a member of St. John the Baptist Province or an Oldenburg Franciscan. I remember being at Oldenburg visiting Mother Clarissa with Rose Agnes when she was elderly and in bed. I remember climbing the convent black steps, sometime in the 50s when I was just three or four years old.

Peg was always interested in science and nature. She obtained her BS in biology from Marian College and an MAE in biological education from Ball State University. Some of her ministry experience included two years teaching in elementary schools, 36 years teaching biology in three different high schools, and two years of parish ministry. Peg then served six years on the Leadership Team of the Sisters of St. Francis. She remarked that there were many blessings to leadership. “The biggest thing that stays with me is the gift of learning the Community at a different level and seeing the commitment everyone has to the same ideals.”

Following her term in leadership, Peg served eight years at Michaela Farm, coordinating Franciscan charism and finances. She noted, “I was always sort of interested in the farm. I must have a farm gene somewhere. While working there I often said, ‘If it has to do with the science of farming, I’m your person. If it is about getting a crop in the ground, I’m not. I was fortunate to work with people who were knowledgeable about that. We worked well together.’”



60 YEARS ~ S. CAROL ANN MAUSE

Carol Ann started her ministry teaching primary grades at St. Francis School in Portage des Sioux, Missouri and St. Bernard in Cincinnati. In 1975 she became a Principal at St. Francis School. For the next ten years she ministered as Principal in Indiana and Missouri. Over the years as teacher and principal she loved working with the students from pre-school to high school. In 1985 she started work as a Pastoral Associate. Carol Ann stated that she was able to contribute much as a woman working with many priests. The priests encouraged and supported her in her work. Many times she could be a listening ear for people at the parishes where sometimes it was easier to talk to a woman than to a priest. At Vincennes she was voted president for Church Women United and State Regent for the Daughters of Isabella.

In her retirement at Oldenburg, Carol Ann stays engaged with students at Oldenburg Academy (OA) through the Adopt-a-Sis program. Since she had been the OA Principal at one time, she has an interest in meeting with students over lunch and hearing what is new at the school.



60 YEARS ~ S. DARIA MITCHELL

Daria wrote in a newspaper article that “simple acts that put oneself at the service of another build up the kingdom of God.”

Being the oldest of six siblings, Daria used her gifts to help others. She spent 19 years teaching junior high students. Then she took on a new ministry as Principal at St. Bernard and St. Aloysius Gonzaga grade schools. After earning her Masters at St. Bonaventure University, she used her talents at the Franciscan Institute working with the Franciscan Friars, editing and proofreading their publications. She loved the warmth and reverence shown to her there. In her spare time she loved to travel to new places, read books and listen to music.

Since retiring at Oldenburg, Daria has a bit more time to read. She also volunteers as a greeter at the St. Clare Hall Lobby desk on weekends. Every Sunday she is there to welcome visitors and chat with any of the Sisters who come by.

Congratulations Sister Jubilarians

60 YEARS ~ S. BARBARA RIEMENSPERGER

Barbara considers herself a “born” Franciscan since she grew up in St. Bernard, Ohio surrounded by Franciscan Friars and Sisters who served at St. Clement Parish. Barb always enjoyed sitting next to the Sisters in church and helping them during her grade school days.

Being in the presence of the Sisters inspired her to want to be a Sister.

After teaching primary grades for five years, Barb began a two-year nursing program at Miami University where she obtained her RN degree. Then as a nurse, Barb spent 10 years working in the Motherhouse Infirmary.

A new ministry opportunity at Mercy Regional Medical Hospital in Vicksburg, MS presented itself, which Barb accepted. She lived with a group of 18 Sisters, most of whom were also employed at the hospital. According to Barb, the Mercy Sisters and hospital staff extended that warm Southern hospitality that one often reads about. Working on a surgical-medical-oncology unit brought numerous experiences. Caring for surgical patients, those receiving chemotherapy and those admitted with various medical problems was a refreshing challenge.

Following two years in Mississippi, Barb returned to Oldenburg and served as Clinical Nurse Coordinator in St. Francis Hall for 15 years, Wellness Center Coordinator for 10 years, and currently ministers to Sisters with memory loss in St. Clare Hall. Barb’s years of ministry with our Sisters have been life-giving for her—“a joy and a privilege”. In her words, “When a Sister dies, a part of her stays with me and part of me goes with her.”



50 YEARS ~ S. MARY MOSTER

Mary’s love of nature started early as she grew up on a farm in Liberty, Indiana enjoying the outdoors with her three brothers. Her Franciscan spirit and call to simple living is deep rooted, inspired by her late uncle, Fr. Humbert Moster, OFM. Mary was positively influenced as she watched and learned about his serving people in inner-city Cincinnati.

Learning about the Franciscan Sisters at the Immaculate Conception Academy, she began Community life. Mary earned a BS in biology from Marian College and served as a biology teacher in Indianapolis and Cincinnati. She earned a PhD in psychology from the University of Minnesota, and after teaching at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, she returned to the Midwest to serve as a Psychologist, and went on to provide mental health services as Clinical Director at IKRON (Integration of Knowledge and Resources for Occupational Needs) before returning to serve at the Community Mental Health Center in Batesville.

Volunteering at Michaela Farm over the past fourteen years has not only provided a living space, but a “sacred” space for Mary, offering a sense of balance, opportunity, and a real connectedness with all life. Mary lives simply and practices good stewardship of the earth by recycling materials, using less, and living as much as possible off the land.

Every summer she cultivates a beautiful garden that produces a variety of vegetables. Many evenings she can be found in the kitchen either canning jams, jellies or sauces.



50 YEARS ~ S. DONNA PRICKEL

Before final profession, Donna described her hopes and dreams for her future life as a Sister “to bring healing and comfort to my Sisters, my family, the Church, with the simplicity and joy of Francis and the courage and perseverance of Mother Theresa.” Donna’s Sisters in community and people served in ministry can attest to her living into these hopes and dreams.

Being the second oldest in a family of 11 from Morris, Indiana, Donna developed many leadership gifts. Nursing was her first ministry: hospice, oncology, medical/psychiatric, and geriatric. Teaching, coordinating, managing in the field of nursing seem to be her niche. When nursing took a physical toll, she was able to transition into pastoral care in a nursing facility and later to being the Parish Life Coordinator of Immaculate Conception Parish in Millhousen, Indiana where she has used her many gifts.

One of Donna’s most rewarding ministries was her hospice pastoral care position with the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters in Monroe, Michigan. She assisted Sisters transitioning from one life to a new life. The most challenging thing about her life in Community and ministry has been balancing both the graced and shadow sides of each.





40 YEARS ~ S. MARY BETH HEFTI

When looking at the various ministries that Mary Beth has been part of, it is obvious to see that she is good at relating with people of all ages. Her desire to serve, her kind and thoughtful ways of ministering, and her wonderful sense of humor are contagious.

After graduating from high school, Mary Beth worked for a few years in payroll and inventory at the shoe manufacturer, Edison Brothers. When she learned there was a need for a “Nanny” to four children who lost their mother, she stepped into that role and cared for a seven-year old, four-year old twins, and a three-month old. She thrived in this position and cared for the children until their father remarried three years later.

Mary Beth entered the Community in 1982 and has been a teacher of religion to seventh and eighth grade students. She was also the Secretary at St. Louis School in Batesville and at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in St. Louis. While working towards her degree in Religious Studies at St. Mary University in Winona, Minnesota, she worked at Holy Cross Parish as Secretary, Bookkeeper, RCIA Teacher and Choir Director.

In 2003 Mary Beth accepted a position at the Central Province Office of the Marianists. This position opened up new opportunities to meet with, learn from, and form friendships with members of this religious community. When a group of priests and brothers formed a social justice committee, Mary Beth was invited to be a member. Mary Beth is fun-loving and kind. When in her company, you find yourself wanting to sit and listen for a long time.



40 YEARS ~ S. ANN MARIE QUINN

Ann Marie was on the move from her birth in Japan. Seven siblings followed; wherever their Dad was stationed in the Air Force became home. Life in Peshawar, Pakistan introduced them to another part of the world, new life experiences, languages, and cultures. Living in Alaska for five years was the longest Ann Marie lived in one place. These moving trends continued when she entered religious life.

Ann Marie says all her ministries and the people she met on the journey helped “form her”. Adults with special needs, students at St. Francis Seraph in Cincinnati, and St. Aloysius in Bridgetown, Ohio: all were her teachers. From 1988 to 1993 she was administrator of medical clinics in Guaymas, Mexico. Local women were able to fill that role, so she returned to Oldenburg for discernment at Michaela Farm. Her love for Earth germinated into environmental education and spirituality programs at Michaela Farm and IMAGO’s Earth Center in Cincinnati. In Eastern Kentucky she served at Good Shepherd Parish as Pastoral Associate, then at St. Vincent Mission as the Grow Appalachia Program Director. Prayer Lodge in Montana needed a new Sister in Residence to work collaboratively with the wider community. After the closing of this mission she came full circle, returning to Over-the-Rhine in Cincinnati at St. Francis Seraph Ministries, to work with adults living in poverty and homelessness.

Presently Ann Marie is a care giver for her mom. Recognizing how much God has guided and blessed her, she hopes in turn that she has been a blessing to others along the way.



25 YEARS ~ S. SUSAN JOHNSON

A native of Indianapolis. Susan met the Oldenburg Franciscans while a student at St. Mary Academy. After graduation from high school in 1952, Sue began working at a bank. It was her next job at a trucking company that she met her husband Albert and the couple was blessed with three children: Joe, Jim and Mary. In order to help support the family when Albert became ill, Sue continued working at various jobs. After the death of Albert, Sue worked at L.S. Ayers for six years before marrying Richard Johnson. She and Dick had two children, Linda and Tony. Both Sue and Dick were very active at Holy Cross Church as Eucharistic Ministers, members of the Parish Council, Liturgy and Bereavement Committees, Homebound Ministry and Neighborhood Ministry. The joy of becoming grandparents of six grandchildren occurred between 1985 and 1991. Shortly before Dick died in 1994, Sue and Dick became Associates of the Sisters of St. Francis.

In March 1996, Sue began a year of discernment to become a Sister of St. Francis and in May 1997, entered the postulancy. During her year as a postulant, Sue was a student at Marian College and lived with the Sisters at Marian Convent. Following her year as a novice in Oldenburg, Sue returned to Indianapolis to serve as Pastoral Coordinator at St. Patrick Parish where she ministered until retiring to the Motherhouse in 2011. Sue has the unique distinction of being a mother, grandmother and religious Sister. According to Sue, her call to religious life has given her the opportunity to deepen her prayer life and enjoy living in Community.

Music is the prayer
the heart
sings



Interviews by Sue Siefert, Executive Director, Office of Congregational Advancement



S. Margie Niemer, OSF

Parish Administrator at
St. Bernard & Mother of Christ
Parishes in Cincinnati

CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

*Longing for light, we wait in darkness
Longing for truth, we turn to You
Make us Your own, Your holy people
Light for the world to see*

REFRAIN:

**Christ, be our light
Shine in our hearts
Shine through the darkness
Christ, be our light
Shine in Your church gathered today**

*Longing for shelter, many are
homeless*

*Longing for warmth, many are cold
Make us Your building, sheltering
others*

Walls made of living stone
REFRAIN

*Many the gifts, many the people
Many the hearts that yearn to belong
Let us be servants to one another
Making Your kingdom come*

REFRAIN

BERNADETTE FARRELL

For over 170 years the Sisters of St. Francis have filled Oldenburg and beyond with the sound of music!

From vocalists and cantors — and musicians playing woodwinds, brass, strings, keys and percussion—they have praised God through music ... and the tradition continues today!

S. Margie Niemer has been in Community for 52 years, and began playing the organ for daily Mass in the Community Chapel as a novice. She has been in full or part-time music ministry for 50 years—and she plays string bass, piano, organ and guitar.

The Franciscan noted, “When I taught private music lessons, the children could begin when they were in the third grade. Once I taught an 80-year old man to play his home organ! He stayed with the lessons about three years. I taught private music lessons, band and orchestral instruments, and choral groups at three high schools and two elementary schools. When I went to parish work following my teaching days, I continued to play for weddings and funerals. Now I substitute when the parish pianist is not able to be here.”

When asked about some of her memorable experiences, Margie smiled and recalled, “When you are in the music department of a high school, the principal assumes that you also know how to produce the musicals for the drama department! I took some classes to help me to organize the vocal coaching and the choreography. Working with the kids on *The Sound of Music*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Wizard of Oz*, etc. were great times of getting to know personalities and having fun bringing out the talent that some kids didn’t know they had.”

Margie’s favorite hymn is, *Christ, Be Our Light*. She added, “It can be used as an Advent hymn or for social concerns liturgies. It always speaks to me of hope and positivity.”

S. Janet Born joined the Community 62 years ago and has enjoyed music throughout her life, although she only actively taught music for eight years. Janet noted, “Piano is my main instrument where I can get lost in the music itself. I fell in love with piano as a child of seven years of age. In my big family it was an outlet for my feelings. Once I began high school I learned cello for orchestra and bells for the band. I was chosen to be orchestra leader as a senior which was another wonderful experience. Back at Oldenburg for various occasions I would play the bass along with guitar players to add that deeper dimension. In Rushville and at St. Clare parish I played organ for Mass and other services.”

The seasoned Franciscan taught children at the grade school and high school levels, but did not recall teaching any adults, although she thought that that would probably be fun if the person wanted to learn.

When asked about her early music teaching experiences, Janet responded, “Teaching music at Oldenburg Academy (OA) was my first opportunity. I learned so much of what I know about teaching from S. Gloria Gallagher who also taught me as a seven-year old through high school at Our Lady of Angels. She was my mentor and someone who took an interest in me as a person. She also was responsible for my considering religious life. She provided a crash course on various instruments the summer before I began teaching at OA. After OA, I went to St. Clement Parish in St. Bernard where there was a full-time Sister teaching music who needed help with all the students. St. Clement had a grade school marching band that was unique in Cincinnati. My challenge there was to try to correct some students’ playing habits that were geared to simply playing as loud as they possibly could without concern for anything else. From there I went to Rushville where I taught grade school children again, mostly piano but also some instruments – woodwinds. S. Barb Piller had been there right before me and she started a little student combo – so I took up where she left off. They knew how to play their instruments correctly. While in Rushville I also served as the parish organist.”

Reflecting on the trying times in her music ministry, Janet recalled, “When I was a new music teacher at OA, I also had the Freshmen Chorus. One day we had to move our practice session to the Oratory where the piano and organ were far away from the students. That offered an opportunity for the students to talk and cut up so much so that I grew flustered and couldn’t bring them back to order. I left the room crying. This led to S. Gloria taking them to task – so much so that to this day those students remember this incident and apologize for their behavior some 30 – 40 years ago. Now we all laugh at this happening. “

As for more pleasant memories ... Janet shared, “I always enjoy meeting one of my former students at OA ... some who are Associates, one who is my sister-in-law and all just wonderful women. It is a joy to know them on an individual level which happens when you teach private lessons.”



*I have everything I need
right here, now inside me.*

*I have everything I need
right here, deep within.*

When asked about her favorite hymn, she responded, “*How Can I Keep from Singing?*” I also like to sing as another instrument God has given me. This song just reminds me of all the blessings I have received in my life, both in my family of nine – three sisters and five brothers plus marvelous parents who raised us totally with love, guidance, values, and everything a child needs to grow into a balanced adult with values. Through my vocation to be an Oldenburg Franciscan, I have received again overflowing gifts and graces that have made me who I am today. “*How Can I Keep from Singing?*”

At left, lyrics shared by Janet of one of her original compositions.

S. Mary Ellen Gillman has been involved with music her entire 56 years in Community and the multi-faceted musician plays the piano, organ, percussion and harp. The music educator noted, “My youngest student was four-years old, my most senior student was 69 — and each student was unique and memorable.”

Regarding her favorite hymn or song, Mary Ellen was quick to respond, “Mozart’s *Marriage of Figaro* as it is full of so much energy and creativity.”



S. Janet Born, OSF

Spiritual Director & Motherhouse Ministry
Oldenburg

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

*My life flows on in endless song;
Above earth's lamentation,
I hear the sweet, tho' far-off hymn
That hails a new creation;
Thro' all the tumult and the strife
I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul—
How can I keep from singing?
What tho' my joys and comforts die?
The Lord my Saviour liveth;
What tho' the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth.
No storm can shake my inmost calm
While to that refuge clinging;
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
How can I keep from singing?
I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin;
I see the blue above it;
And day by day this pathway smooths,
Since first I learned to love it,
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
A fountain ever springing;
All things are mine since I am his—
How can I keep from singing?*

EITHNE NI BHRAONAIN, NICKY RYAN, ROMA RYAN



S. Mary Ellen Gillman, OSF - pianist

Music Teacher &
Motherhouse Accompanist

With S. Barbara Piller, OSF - flutist



S. Barbara Piller, OSF

Coordinator of Liturgy & Worship
at the Oldenburg Motherhouse

*"Using music to assist
others in prayer is my
goal and passion."*

S. Barbara Piller, OSF



**S. Jeri Fuhrmann , OSF - Seated with
S. Teresita Weind , SNDdeN - Standing**

Liturgy & Music Director and
Sacristan at
Mt. Notre Dame Health Center
in Cincinnati

S. Barbara Piller is with the Community for 63 years and has played and taught music for over seven decades. She's played the flute for 71 years, and piano and organ for 45 years. Barbara shared that seven-year olds were her youngest music students, and in a sense, she is still teaching women as old as 93 how to read music and interpret its symbols with their voices with the Sisters' Choir and their Chime Choir.

The senior music educator shared, "My music ministry began by teaching private music lessons to high school students. It then went from teaching seven-year olds in Rushville, Indiana how to play any instrument they wanted to play even though I hadn't played them myself! What fun! Teaching the drums was the most 'fun'. I even had to learn how to hold the drumsticks! When the child told me that he didn't think he was interested anymore I wanted to shout ALLELUIA! Another child from there still stops in to say 'hi' when he is in town. He remembers me telling his mom after many agonizing piano lessons that his hands would do much better with a baseball glove on them. He is eternally grateful.

I returned to my high school alma mater, OLA, to teach flute, piano and voice. In those days I was S. Mary Linus. Consequently the high school girls supplied me with Linus cartoons, dolls, and blankets. I was so relieved when we could return to our baptismal names! My next adventure was to teach classroom music to all the grades in Indianapolis. The school at Little Flower and the Community of Sisters and parishioners were sources of personal and spiritual growth for me. I also played the flute in a small group, sang in the parish choir, and played the organ at one weekend Mass. It was here that I knew that teaching music in a school setting was not to be in my future. Also, at this time I began to use my flute playing as a form of prayer, letting the Holy Spirit direct my playing. This prayer practice continues most Sundays here at the Motherhouse.

When I moved to the north side of Indianapolis to S. Pius X Parish, I continued to play in an ensemble, sing in their choir, cantor and play organ at one of the weekend liturgies. Ironically, my primary ministry was to serve as their Pastoral Associate. When I was called into Community Leadership in 1986 I eventually found myself as Choir Director and later as Director of our Chime Choir. Both groups are amazing to me as they give me life and sometimes wear me out in a good way. Using music to assist others in prayer is my goal and passion.

I am just so grateful for the gift of music that has always been a part of my life from as long as I can remember. Listening to music in my home growing up and playing music with my siblings until my mother's 90th birthday nurtured my gift and created the passion in me to share the gift of music with others as long as I am able."

When asked if she has a favorite hymn, Barbara smiled and noted, "I have several favorites, some because of the words and some because of how the melody line flows and others because of the beautiful harmonies. Good music feeds my soul. While I do not intentionally compose music, I do play spontaneously many Sundays at Mass as the altar is being prepared. That is usually where and when I try to let the Spirit lead me. It is truly the breath of the Spirit playing through me when I get out of the way!"

S. Jeri Fuhrmann has been an OSF for almost 55 years with a music ministry that started as a grade school Marching Band Director. While at that parish she volunteered for Liturgical Music, and thus began her interest in church music. She later earned her Masters degree in church music and liturgy from the former St. Joseph College, in Rensselaer, Indiana.

Jeri's primary instrument is piano and she was a piano major at Marian College. She also plays organ, guitar, and string bass and noted, "My vocal skills are also a great gift I can use in my ministry. As a grade school band director, and then high school music teacher, I learned how to play all the instruments! I needed to know how to teach them all. However, since I do not practice them regularly, I do not have the lip or skill to play them all! I also played cello in high school."

When asked about her music education ministry, Jeri noted, “I usually start with children in the third grade and occasionally had a second grader on piano. Being a full-time teacher, I didn't have extra time to teach others, so my eldest students were high school seniors. At the grade school, I taught children from 7:30 AM until 5:00 PM daily, and each received a 30-minute lesson weekly. I often had a small group of beginners on like instruments.



I started out at St. Catharine's School in Westwood. Then I taught a year at ICA. I spent two years in Indianapolis teaching classroom music and some private lessons, while I finished my Masters degree during the summers. After graduation I moved into church music at St. Peter's Parish in Chillicothe, Ohio, as Director of Music. I later held similar positions at St. James, in Wyoming, Ohio, Our Lady of Victory in Cincinnati, Ohio, a year in Bright, Indiana and several years at my home parish of St. Clement in St. Bernard, Ohio. While at St. Clement, I also accompanied the choirs at Roger Bacon High School, just a short walk from St. Clement.

In 2004 I moved to the Mount Notre Dame Health Center (MNDHC) in Reading, Ohio as Director of Liturgy and Music for the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. While there I was also part-time Music Director at Saints Peter and Paul in Reading. When I was asked to take on the Sacristan responsibilities at MNDHC, I left the parish work and am now in my 18th year of working with the Sisters of Notre Dame at their retirement center.”

Jeri added, “Since entering the Community I’ve only been a resident at Oldenburg for a year, still I enjoy getting to share my musical gifts with my Community! It is an honor to be asked to sing or play for an event at the Motherhouse, especially funerals of dear friends. My present ministry has similar experiences - as I share my gifts with the Sisters there. The Sisters of Notre Dame have become a "second community" for me as well. It is always special to play/sing for their jubilees and funerals.”

When asked if she has a favorite hymn, Jeri said, “I have many favorites! I am fond of much music, because when singing it, I am actually praying Scripture! One of my favorite songs is *Blest Are They* since it is the prayer of the Beatitudes. This too has become a staple song for the SNDdeN's since the death of S. Dorothy Stang, who was praying the Beatitudes when she was murdered in Brazil. She is a modern-day martyr.

I also have to include *The Summons*. While being chosen to participate in a fundraiser for Retired Religious in 2000, *Sisters in Song, Rejoice*, I was chosen by Director Christopher Walker from among the 80 Religious women to sing a solo verse of that song. What an honor!”

When Jeri was studying voice for her Masters at St. Joseph, her teacher did not like the *Prayer of St. Francis* that was included in the music she was singing and suggested that Jeri write a new hymn. Feeling up for the challenge, Jeri wrote *Francis's Prayer*, which later was included in the Sisters’ recording of *Songs of Celebration*, in celebration of their Sesquicentennial.

S. André Burkhart entered the Community 68 years ago, and while she played the piano and clarinet prior to entering, she has focused on her vocal talents since taking her vows. André recalls a spiritual hymn from her years of ministering in the inner-city entitled, *Order My Steps*. She notes that it is her favorite hymn as its lyrics ask God to direct her steps.

ORDER MY STEPS

SONGWRITERS:

STEVEN HOWSE, ANTHONY HENDERSON,
CHARLES SCRUGGS, GLENN BURLEIGH,
ORLANDO CLARENCE WATSON, AND
RAY MARQUIS BRADFORD

Refrain: Order my steps in Your word dear Lord
Lead me, guide me everyday
Send Your anointing, Father I pray
Order my steps in Your word
Please, order my steps in Your word

The spirited Franciscan has been singing since her grade school days in Brookville, Indiana and has had one year of formal training while at Brookville High School. André has served as a vocalist at weddings, funerals and for various liturgy celebrations and has led grade school choirs, some of which came to sing for the Sisters.

BLEST ARE THEY

Blest are they, the poor in spirit
Theirs is the kingdom of God
Blest are they, full of sorrow
They shall be consoled

REFRAIN

Rejoice and be glad
Blessed are you; holy are you
Rejoice and be glad
Yours is the Kingdom of God

Blest are they, the lowly ones
They shall inherit the earth
Blest are they, who hunger and thirst
They shall have their fill

REFRAIN

Blest are they who show mercy
Mercy shall be theirs
Blest are they, the pure of heart
They shall see God

REFRAIN

Blest are they who seek peace
They are the children of God
Blest are they who suffer in faith
The glory of God is theirs

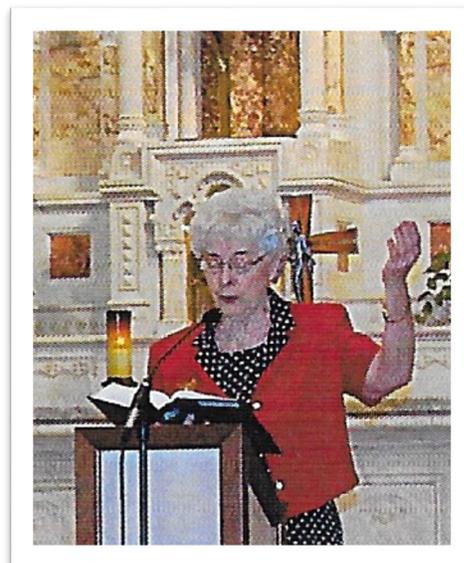
REFRAIN

Blest are you who suffer hate
All because of me
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom
Shine for all to see

REFRAIN

Rejoice and be glad
Blessed are you; holy are you
Rejoice and be glad
Yours is the Kingdom of God

BY: DAVID HAAS



S. André Burkhart, OSF
Cantor & Adopt-a-Sis Coordinator
at the Motherhouse



S. Noella Poinsette, OSF

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Director at the Oldenburg Motherhouse

WE COME TO YOUR FEAST

We place upon your table
A gleaming cloth of white
The weaving of our stories
The fabric of our lives
The dreams of those before us
The ancient hopeful cries
The promise of our future
Our needing and our nurture
Lie here before our eyes

REFRAIN:

**We come to your feast
We come to your feast
The young and the old
The frightened, the bold
The greatest and the least
We come to your feast
We come to your feast
With the fruit of our lands
And the work of our hands
We come to your feast**

We place upon your table
A humble loaf of bread
The gift of field and hillside
The grain by which we're fed
We come to taste the presence
Of him on whom we feed
To strengthen and connect us
To challenge and correct us
To love in word and deed

REFRAIN

We place upon your table
A simple cup of wine
The fruit of human labour
The gift of sun and vine
We come to taste the presence
Of him we claim as Lord
His dying and his living
His leading and his giving
His love in cup out poured

REFRAIN

We gather 'round your table
We pause within our quest
We stand beside our neighbors
We name the stranger guest
The feast is spread before us
You bid us come and dine
In blessing, we'll uncover
In sharing, we'll discover
Your substance and your sign

REFRAIN

J. MICHAEL JONCAS

S. Noella Poinsette entered the Community 58 years ago and has been involved in music ministry for 41 years as an instrumental and choral teacher—and as a Parish Liturgical Music Director. Her musical skills include playing the piano, organ and hammered dulcimer. She has taught music students ranging from the fourth grade through college.

The multi-talented Franciscan has taught music and choral students at ICA, served as the Music and Band director at St. Catherine in Cincinnati and Holy Trinity in Indianapolis, as Parish Liturgical Music Director in

Danville, Kentucky and a few Cincinnati parishes, and served in music ministry at St. Bonaventure University in Olean, New York.

When asked what her favorite music memories have been, Noella listed several. “My first full year at St. Bonaventure University (SBU) and the first week of the school year - and pulling off a beautiful rendition of Liam Lawton's *The Cloud's Veil* and all the other music at an outdoor Mass with a special group of young people on the first anniversary of 9/11; two SBU students were among those who lost their lives on 9/11.

Working with George Drance, a Jesuit novice who was the drama teacher, to produce *Godspell*, the first ever musical performed by the Lakota students at Red Cloud High School on the Pine Ridge Reservation. In the previous year I was part of this production at Our Lady of Angels High School in Cincinnati with the drama teacher resulting in a totally different interpretation—both were fantastic.

Everyday interactions with students, choir members, instrumentalists, and cantors in working together to create something more beautiful and inspiring than they had ever dreamed of in forming community and creating music.”

Noella noted that her favorite hymn is *We Come to Your Feast* because, “It’s about all of us; there are no walls/no labels/no barriers to who is welcome at the table/welcome in our lives as sister and brother.” The long-time music educator and musician has created some of her own works as she shared, “I’ve orchestrated Jacque Ibert's piano solo, *Le Petit An Blanc*, composed a Mass setting based on *Shenandoah*, and have created lots of mantras and a few songs. I’ve also adapted many classical pieces for the Sisters’ Chime Choir.”

S. Rose O’Brien currently suffers from dementia so her long-time friend in the Community, S. Barbara Piller shares, “Rose is a pianist who loved to write music throughout her life—and she also loved to sing. Her music is heart and prayer based and her love for God is very evident in every one of her songs. Her gentle spirit is expressed in her music.”

Barbara shared the following refrain that Rose wrote:

“Who are You O beautiful God?
When I see your works, I name
You blessed.”

Barbara also noted that, “In later years Rose would re-write some of her songs adding more harmonies. She also entertained the Sisters in St. Clare Hall lobby with her talents as a pianist.”



S. Rose O'Brien, OSF
Ministry of Prayer and Presence

S. Catherine Schneider marks 55 years of religious life and while music was never her primary ministry, she has always used her vocal skills everywhere she has served—and shared, “In every place where I ministered, I was invited to be involved in music because I could play guitar and sing. One of my favorite places was Bloomington, Illinois where a group of college and high school students who were part of the parish had their own little music group. I became good friends with them and joined in on guitar on occasion. They asked me to be their “manager” as they went about the area and played and sang their music. I valued the times we were together and they spoke of how their music touched them deeply.”

Through the years Catherine used both her vocal and guitar skills and noted, “I have sung in various choirs and served as a cantor in many places. One of my favorites was Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis, Indiana. In New Albany, Indiana my main ministry was classroom teaching. I also became a Choir Director for adults—and for children and had a number of children’s programs to direct. I was always blessed with someone who really knew music and could accompany on a keyboard. I used my guitar extensively.”

Catherine believes in the influence music can have on one’s life and deeply witnessed it as she shared, “One of my favorite memories is from my time in New Albany. There was a young boy who was in trouble quite often. He was troubled. He wanted to sing in the children’s choir and sometimes was disruptive. I thought he had a great voice. One Christmas I included a song that had a solo part and I asked him to sing it. He was very hesitant at first but agreed. His mother, a single mom, spoke to me one day about how hard he was working on this. She said tearfully, ‘I’ve never seen him like this.’ Her gratitude touched me deeply. He did very well and many who knew him were very surprised. I realized at that moment how very powerful music can be to touch peoples’ lives so deeply. I just needed a good solo voice ... and he needed some confidence.”

Today Catherine’s main music ministry is serving as a cantor and in the Sisters’ Choir at the Motherhouse and added, “I really appreciate the opportunity and find this very life giving. Whenever I was and am able to serve as a musician for Eucharistic Liturgy and prayer, I find it such a gift to contribute to the prayer of those gathered. Music is a very important part of my personal prayer. I hope I am doing this for a very long time!”

As you’ve read about our Sisters praising God through music, I think you’ll agree that the purpose of music goes beyond mere instruction. Singing and playing allows a part of our hearts to speak to God in a way that doesn’t always happen as we hear the spoken word.

Something incredible happens when we worship in song. You can feel it when you sing or play alone, but most especially when you do so as part of a congregation in worship. Something awakens not only in the heart of each person but also in the collective heart of the body of Christ, connecting us to each other and to God in the deepest part of who we are.

Music as a part of worship is so much more than mere mental exercise. God created us to communicate with the very depths of our spirit, and singing and playing are ways we can accomplish this in a profound and meaningful way—just as our Sisters have for over 170 years.

Music is the prayer the heart sings!



S. Catherine Schneider, OSF
Consultant and Facilitator





A FRANCISCAN FRIENDSHIP



By: Jane Schaefer, Associate Co-Director

As an Associate of the Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg, one can count on experiencing many things: a life of prayer, community outreach, supporting the Sisters in peace and justice efforts, celebrating both Sister and Associate Jubilees, and honoring the life of a Sister and/or Associate in their celebration of life. What is often overlooked in the initial formation and discernment of becoming an Associate is the friendships that develop through the years. The Richmond, Indiana Associates can attest to the friendships made and how these friendships continue to grow stronger with each passing year.



Back Row: Mary Kay Hankosky, Sallie Senese, Cheryl Schnitzius, Jackie Schlichte:
Front Row: Bev Pardieck, Gail Wright, Donna Smith

Mary Kay Hankosky was among the first in the Richmond area to become an Associate, signing in 1987. “I credit the late S. Edith Martini for introducing me to the Oldenburg Franciscans,” she stated. From 1987-1996 Mary Kay opened her home to anyone interested in learning more about becoming an Oldenburg Franciscan Associate. When the group got too big to meet in her home they moved their gatherings to Fr. Hillman Hall at St. Andrews or in the St. Roberts Room at Holy Family School.

Donna Smith became an Associate in 2006. “Being an Associate has allowed me to make lasting friendships while creating a lifetime of memories rooted in the Gospel and in Franciscan values.”

Shirley Mosgrove, who recently moved from Richmond, Indiana to Amboy, Illinois, shared how this relationship was truly a gift from God.

“I’ve grown spiritually and have learned the importance of being kind and helping others. The Sisters are so kind. I was so surprised to find they are just like us! What a Joy!”

Jackie Schlichte, who signed her commitment in 2013 said, “Our Richmond Group of Associates has been like forming an extended family. I pretty much believe that any one of us would do anything for one another. We are actively praying for one another, and it’s been a real treat to look forward to gathering in God’s loving presence, enjoy a good lunch, and just share our hearts with one another. Transformation has been one of the Lord’s fruits in my life as an Oldenburg Associate. Being with the Sisters of St. Francis and other Associates is inspiring.”



Shirley Mosgrove

Shirley Lorenz signed her commitment in 2009. She affectionately shares about the Richmond group of Associates using one word, "Connection!" "When I think about this group of Associates, the word Connection comes to mind.

My first connection to Oldenburg was to S. Jean Clare Theobald, my late Sister-in-law. I then had a wonderful connection with the late Carol Hatfield who was my contact person as I journeyed through the discernment of becoming an Associate. She was a great friend and I dearly miss her. Finally, my connection with this Richmond Group of Associates especially through the last couple years with COVID, has been uplifting for me.

Because we were unable to gather in person, each of us was paired with another Associate from the Richmond Group. My prayer partner was Jackie Schlichte and it was just so nice to stay connected and to check in with each other."

Over the years this group has seen a number of Associates come and go for a variety of reasons: moving, age, and death to name a few, but the one thing that has remained constant for them has been the depth of their friendship and their commitment to holding each other in prayer.

Yvonne Dye signed her commitment in 2011 and speaks to the "sisterhood" of the relationship. "The fellowship, praying for each other, the charisma, it has all changed my life. It is a very powerful experience to pray for each other. We take turns presenting or leading prayer and we always get something out of it. This group of Associates are my sisters and brothers in Christ."

Bev Pardieck who became an Associate in 1993 has been a real leader among the group.

She has greatly appreciated the many contacts made over the years. "I have enjoyed Family Fun Days, Pancake Breakfasts, and other gatherings where I could volunteer. I like to be a part of the action when I belong to something." She went on to say, "I have experienced many blissful days and nights over the years. My experience as a Franciscan Associate has brought me much joy. I cannot thank the Sisters and Associates enough."

The Richmond Associates now hold their gatherings in the Bagel Shop on 5th Street in Richmond. They enjoy a light lunch, catch up with each other, and then spend some time in formal prayer. They have an open door policy and will welcome anyone interested in learning more about becoming an Associate, to join them.



Shirley Lorenz



From Left to right around the table: Evy Christopher, Bev Pardieck, Donna Smith, Shirley Mosgrove, Sallie Senese, Carolyn Meyer, Mary Kay Hankosky, Shirley Lorenz, Kathleen Sheehy (deceased), Yvonne Dye.



For more information about becoming an Oldenburg Franciscan Associate, please contact the Associate Office or visit the Sisters' website at www.OldenburgFranciscans.org and click on the Associate link.

You may also find us on Facebook at: Oldenburg Franciscan Assoc Indiana.

CAROLYN MEYER
cmeyer@oldenburgosf.com
812-933-6457

JANE SCHAEFER
associate@oldenburgosf.com
812-933-6439



Oldenburg Franciscan Center

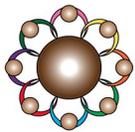
Retreat ☺ Renew + Rejoice! ♥

upcoming programs...

DRUMMING CIRCLE

ALTERNATING
TUES. MORNINGS
(10:30 AM) AND
WED. EVENINGS
(6:30 PM)

SEE WEBSITE FOR INFO



GYPHY SOUL ESSENTIAL OILS



SATURDAY, JULY 9
9:30 AM-11:30 AM
(IN PERSON ONLY)

MYAAMIAMI (MIAMI PEOPLE):

A LIVING PEOPLE
WITH A PAST



SATURDAY, JULY 30
9:30 AM-11:30 AM
CEU'S AVAILABLE

UNDERSTANDING OUR DREAMS: FINDING THE GOD WITHIN



SATURDAY, AUG. 13
9:30 AM-11:30 AM
CEU'S AVAILABLE

COSMOLOGY, CHRIST, AND US



SATURDAY, SEPT. 3
9:30 AM-11:30 AM

FROM POVERTY TO POSSIBILITY



SATURDAY, OCT. 8
9:30 AM-11:30 AM

CARD MAKING



SATURDAY, OCT. 15
9:30 AM-2:30 PM
(IN PERSON ONLY)

SAVE THE DATE!



NOVEMBER 19
FOR ILIA DELIO!



A DAY OF QUIET RENEWAL
FRIDAYS:
9:00am-4:00pm
July 29
August 12
September 2

Contemplative Prayer

WEDNESDAYS:

2:00pm-3:30pm
July 6
August 3
September 7

WITH S. OLGA WITTEKIND, OSF

Coffee Talks

"Our Spiritual Journeys
through the Eyes of..."

July 31:
Harry Potter
August 14:
"The Chosen"
September 4: Old
Testament Women

To register for programs visit our website: www.oldenburgfranciscancenter.org,
call us at 812.933.6437, or email us at center@oldenburgosf.com

NOTABLES ...

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Our Chapel

is open to the public for our 9:30 Liturgies each Sunday!

We are so happy to have you with us again!



SALE

SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

ARE HOSTING A

TAG SALE

JUNE 18 FROM 9:00-12:00

ST. THERESA HALL

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS—FURNITURE—DÉCOR & MORE!



SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS
OLDENBURG
8TH ANNUAL



CARDINALS vs. REDS RAFFLE WINNERS

1ST PRIZE **CARL SCHAEFFLER** COVINGTON, KY

- ◆ 4 Box Seats at Busch Stadium in St. Louis - Friday, June 10
- ◆ \$500 for Hotel Accommodations
- ◆ \$300 Spending Money

2ND PRIZE **AMANDA MEYER** OLDENBURG, IN

- ◆ 4 Box Seats at Great American Ball Park on Friday, July 22
- ◆ \$500 for Hotel Accommodations
- ◆ \$150 Spending Money

3RD PRIZE **ABBY LUHRING** SUNMAN, IN

- ◆ Fan-Friendly Gift Basket

4TH PRIZE **NATALIE CLARK** ELWOOD, IN

- ◆ Fan-Friendly Gift Basket



THANK YOU

for your support of our Retired Sisters!
S. Pat Murray, OSF

THANK YOU!

Your generosity has funded the Sisters' *Hercules Patient Repositioner Project* and 4 units will soon be installed!

Thank You from the Sisters and caregivers in St. Clare Hall!

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PATIENT REPOSITIONER



With the push of a button, Hercules:

- Improves caregiver safety
- Increases efficiency
- Reduces nursing burnout
- Enhances caregiver recruiting and retention

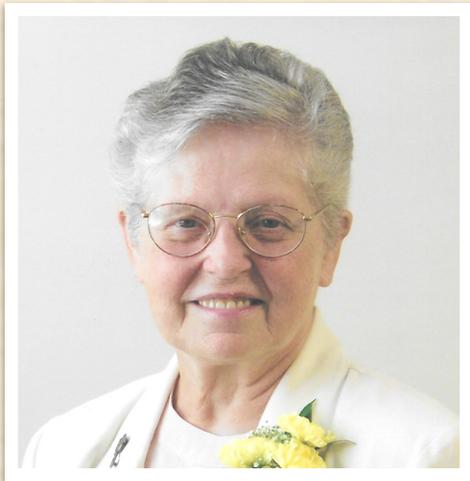
THE
morel
COMPANY™



With prayer as the center of our lives, we serve in simplicity and joy. Daily we pray both alone and together. Coming before God in solitude, we listen and respond to the Spirit. Gathering in Jesus's name we share His word with one another and the world as a whole.

We welcome your online prayer requests and offer our weekly reflections for each Sunday and those from special occasions.

REST IN PEACE ... GOOD AND FAITHFUL



S. JUDITH WERNER, OSF

As the Lenten season began, S. Judith Werner, formerly S. Bonaventure, responded to the invitation of resurrection on March 5, 2022.

Judith was born in Batesville on July 1, 1943, the second child of Francis and Ethel Schumacher Werner. Years later, the family bought a farm and Judith shared: "I was blessed to be able to attend the Academy because my mother raised chickens and used the egg money to pay my tuition."

Judith entered the Community in 1961, continuing her education at Marian College and later at Creighton University, where she earned a Master of Science in Science Education.

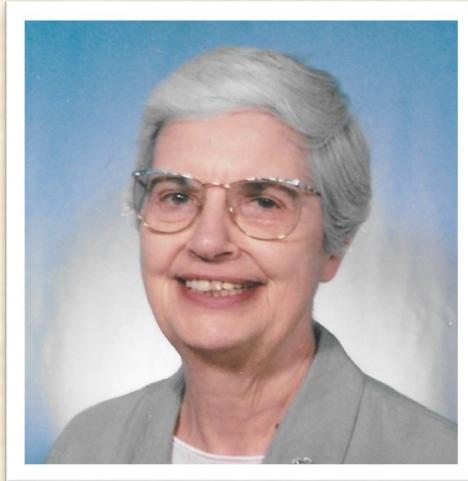
In reflecting upon her experiences in the Community, Judith remarked, "My years as a Sister of St. Francis have been blessed with opportunities that I would never have experienced otherwise. I have been challenged, supported, and gifted through the wisdom of many holy women.

My ministries and education have deepened my spirituality. Throughout my journey I have felt the presence of the Divine. I have continually met the next 'teacher,' and heard the right messages that prepared me for the next step of my journey."

Judith was a gifted, creative teacher in grade schools in both Indiana and Ohio. Eventually she began traveling to schools in the Cincinnati Archdiocese offering in-service programs in science. In an article about Judith in the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, she said, "I think science brings out the creativity and magic in a child." She wanted teachers and students alike to be fascinated with science, and her enthusiasm was infectious.

In the last two years, as confusion limited Judith's ability to find the words she wanted and to understand what was happening within her, we could still see in her a depth of spirit and places of connection. Sisters in St. Clare Hall have been especially blessed by Judith. When she was able to walk the halls, she liked to visit each person and ask how they were. In the midst of her vulnerability, she still had a desire to connect to others.

Excerpts from the Memorial Letter written by S. Barbara Leonhard, OSF, for the General Council.



S. MARILYNN HOFER, OSF

S. Marilyn Hofer, formerly S. Maryl, entered eternal life unexpectedly on March 26, 2022.

Marilynn Genevieve Hofer was born in Chicago, the second of seven children of John and Louise Belda Hofer. When she was six, the family moved to Indianapolis where she was educated by Oldenburg Franciscans from grade one through college. High school years were spent at St. Mary Academy. There it was that her participation in various choral groups provided special enjoyment for Marilyn.

After many years of teaching, Marilyn accepted a position as Gifts and Systems Processor in Marian's Advancement Office, and later as the Assistant Director of Alumni. This gave Marilyn a chance to meet former students and "experience a thrill when I see what alums have done or are doing with their lives."

Toward the end of Marilyn's 43-year ministry at Marian, she was selected to receive the prestigious *Franciscan Values Award*. Several staff members referred to Marilyn as one of the "unsung heroes" on Marian's campus, and they felt she preferred to keep it that way. In 2011 Marilyn returned to Oldenburg to serve as the part-time Coordinator of Health Insurance.

About this transition she wrote, "Living and working at the Motherhouse has been a joy for me. The opportunities for prayer, sharing, attending programs, etc., is most satisfying. My responsibility regarding medical insurance has proved manageable and leaves me time to read, study, visit the Sisters and take walks. I still maintain my connection with Marian University by serving on the Board of Trustees.

One could count on Marilyn's generous "yes" to fill most any need. She befriended each person she met, making each feel special and deeply loved. Marilyn lived life to the full, even up to her last hours. She died quietly, as she lived. Most of all, she taught each of us how to truly be the handmaid of the Lord, offering our "yes" to each invitation. With Marilyn, may each of us respond to our God, "May it be done to me according to your word."

Excerpts from the Memorial Letter written by S. Christa Franzer, OSF, for the General Council.



S. DOLORES MEYER, OSF

S. Dolores Meyer, formerly S. Joseph Mary, passed into eternal life on April 3, 2022.

Dolores was the first child of Alvin and Helen Lenkiewicz Meyer of St. Louis, Missouri. She was later joined by her brother, Martin.

Dolores came to know our Sisters as a student at Holy Cross in St. Louis. The last three years of her high school were at Immaculate Conception Academy as an aspirant and then, as an academy student when the aspirancy program was discontinued. She and S. Norma Rocklage, a classmate, rode the train together from St. Louis to Oldenburg on September 8, 1951 when they left to enter the convent. Dolores related, "There was a sad tug at our hearts, but we also felt the strong comfort of the Lord, knowing that we were following His call, His invitation."

Dolores began her teaching career as a primary teacher in Indiana and Missouri. She was known to reach out to special education students taught by S. Catherine Raters. Since school was challenging for her, she especially encouraged disadvantaged children who had a hard time in school.

Later she moved to Montana and our missions at St. Xavier School, in St. Xavier and St. Charles School, in Pryor where her talents were used for teaching Language Arts and Religion. Dolores always accepted people where they were.

Parish work then followed with Dolores serving as a Director of Religious Education, where she continued to work with young people. Finally, she served at Immaculate Conception Parish in Old Monroe as a Pastoral Minister and worked with adults and the RCIA process as lay people found her approachable and easy to talk to. Dolores was known for her simplicity.

We thank Dolores, for the gifts that she has shared with so many children and their parents, and with adult Catholics and those joining the Church through RCIA. We thank her for being the beautiful person God created her to be, for being a humble Franciscan and sharing her life with us.

Excerpts from the Memorial Letter written by S. Annette Grisley, OSF, for the General Council.

THFUL SERVANTS

MEMORIALIZE A SISTER



S. ELNA STEMANN, OSF

Our beloved S. Elna Stemann let go of her earthly life on April 28, 2022 and emerged into the glorious presence of the Risen Jesus.

Louise Ann Stemann was born in Cincinnati, Ohio on September 15, 1937, the second child of Louis and Mary Engman Stemann. “One could say I was born a Franciscan,” Elna wrote. “Baptized at St. Clement parish in St. Bernard, by a Franciscan priest gave me a good start. Attending the parish school and being taught by our Sisters from K through 8 had me on my way. I believe my vocation began in third grade where I helped S. Alverna Chandler work in the church grotto as I swept and cleaned vigil lights. It was a very special time for me.”

After attending Our Lady of Angels High School as a freshman, Elna and two classmates – Virginia Kistner (S. Amy) and Ann Driscoll (S. Lucy)-- were accepted into the Aspirancy at Oldenburg.

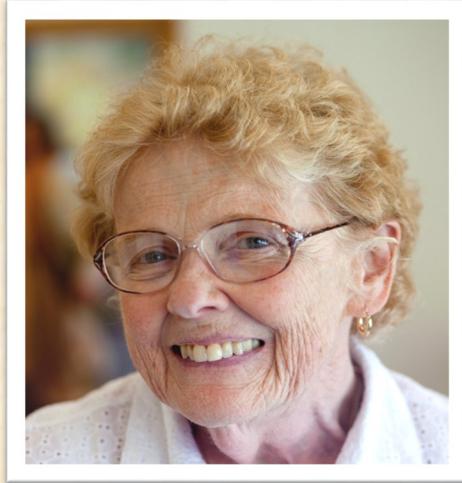
Following her Novitiate training, Elna began a 31-year career in the classroom. Her first class at St. Michael School in Brookville, Indiana consisted of 49 second-grade students. Her teaching experiences with primary students were also learning ones, ending with her assignment at Holy Family School in Oldenburg.

Elna was a core member of the Community’s House of Prayer, known as “House of Resurrection” in Cincinnati. She spent several summers at St. Vincent Orphanage in Vincennes, IN. In 1992, Elna accepted the double responsibility of Manager of Campus Grounds and Sacristan—both of which brought her joy.

In 2004, Elna moved to Evansville and served as a companion to S. Jane McConnell. Elna embraced a new ministry—caring for toddlers and infants in her home. “I must say this became my favorite ministry,” Elna revealed. She later volunteered at St. Vincent Hospital in Evansville.

As Elna now looks upon the face of God, we thank her for the gift of her Franciscan presence in our Community, of service in our beautiful world.

Excerpts from the Memorial Letter written by S. Delouise Menges, OSF, for the General Council.



S. KATHLEEN MULSO, OSF

S. Kathleen Mulso, formerly, S. John Marie, moved quietly to eternal life on May 1, 2022. She was born in Mt. Clemons, Michigan as the second of five children of John and Evelyn Trombly Mulso.

Kathleen felt drawn to be a Sister when she met the Sisters of St. Francis when they came to Roseville to conduct a Bible School. She had finished eighth grade and decided to volunteer. She spent a lot of time with the Sisters and sensed a real joy in them which they shared with everyone. It was then that she learned about the aspirancy and wanted to attend. Her parents thought that she was too young but said if when she turned sixteen, she still wanted to go to the aspirancy, she could go to Oldenburg. She completed her high school classes and entered the convent in February of 1965.

Kathleen began as a grade school teacher. She especially enjoyed teaching religion, language arts and history. She later had the opportunity to move to Religious Education and teach religion to about 400 children who were bussed from public schools during the day or came to evening classes. Later Kathleen became a Parish Director of Religious Education which involved her not only with children but also with adults.

Kathleen relates in her autobiography that “due to physical changes taking place, I was not able to stay out on mission.” She saw that God had a specific plan for her. Her work was not ended. She walked with adults in the RCIA process at a local parish and taught children in catechetical programs offered nearby. She also worked as a substitute teacher at Oldenburg Academy.

At the Motherhouse, Kathleen organized Motherhouse tours and welcomed visitors. She enjoyed being with people. In Kathleen’s words, “All was good time spent.”

When asked what was on her “Bucket List,” Kathleen desired to have dinner with her classmates. This happened a few months ago with everyone present and one joining by phone.

Excerpts from the Memorial Letter written by S. Annette Grisley, OSF, for the General Council.

Sending a memorial donation in memory of one of our late Sisters is not only a thoughtful gesture, it also helps our Sisters continue their ministry serving God.

Did you know that donations may be directed in several ways:

- ◆ **Retired Sisters**
To help care for our senior Sisters ages 70 +
- ◆ **Faithful Servant Fund**
To help a Sister to remain in a part-time ministry as she retires
- ◆ **Little Portion Fund**
To assist with the Sisters’ mission activities
- ◆ **Associate Relationship**
To support the Associate Relationship Program of the Sisters
- ◆ **Spirituality Centers**
To support the Oldenburg Franciscan Center and the Nia Kuumba Center in MO
- ◆ **Needs of the Sisters**
To help the Sisters where funds are needed most

Whichever fund you select, your donation will benefit the Sisters in their ministry of serving God.

TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT:

- ◆ Use the enclosed envelope
- ◆ Send a gift to the intended fund at PO Box 100, Oldenburg, IN 47036
- ◆ Donate online:
OldenburgFranciscans.org

THANK YOU!



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We hold you in prayer

Dear God,

You know how I feel today,
You know what I want to say,
My heart soars up to You above
It's full of gratitude and love.
I want to kneel as I pray
But my knees no longer bend that way.
I want my prayer to be elegant and grand
But that's not necessary when You're holding my hand.
Thus I don't have to make a fuss
When I ask Your blessing on our friends who share with us.



Prayer written by
S. Edna Martini, OSF