



SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

PO Box 100 OLDENBURG, IN 47036

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FACEBOOK: FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF OLDENBURG



S. ADELE ZAHN, OSF

January 26, 2018

Dear Sisters, Associates, Co-workers, Relatives and Friends of Sister Adele,

*“What is good has been explained to you;
this is what God asks of you:
only this, to act justly,
to love tenderly
and to walk humbly with your God.”*

This one verse of the book of Micah, chapter six, is the sum total of Scripture chosen for the first reading of Sister Adele Zahn’s funeral liturgy. The strength and simplicity of this one verse mirrors the strength and simplicity of Adele’s faith and vocation.

Born in Dayton, Ohio, Adele was the middle child of three born to Marie (Hoefer) and Edward Zahn. After graduating from St. Anthony Elementary, Adele chose to attend Immaculate Conception Academy (now Oldenburg Academy) as a resident student. When she was a senior, her high school years were summarized in the yearbook as follows:

“Adele Zahn, 1937 – Always ranking highest in Scholarship, Miss Zahn was awarded the Alumnae Scholarship Pin to Marian College, Indianapolis. She refused to take advantage of the scholarship in order to follow her religious vocation. Popular in all student activities, Miss Zahn played the baritone in the orchestra, served as class president in her sophomore year, was president of the Mission Crusade and editor of Olivia in her senior year.”

Adele entered the Sisters of St. Francis on December 28, 1937. After attending Marian College, she taught at Our Lady of Angels High School for two years before being sent to Fordham University for advanced studies. Returning to OLA for a year, she then taught at Immaculate Conception Academy for four years. Her scholastic ability was recognized by the Community and she returned to Fordham for four years to complete a Masters and Doctorate in French.

Upon completion of her Fordham years, Adele began what would be a distinguished career at Marian College (now Marian University) for over fifty years. She taught French, was Dean of Women and Dean of the College. But closest to her heart was the establishment of the Humanities Program and then the Honors Program. She was the originator of both programs and eagerly taught in both programs. Being of an inquisitive mind and very well read herself, she inspired thousands of students to broaden themselves by taking such classes as “Mythology and Psychology Honors.”

A lover of nature, Adele used a theme centering on trees when she was asked to deliver a Jubilee Address for the Community. She enjoyed walking, tennis and outdoor activities. She was known to be able to converse with various people on many different subjects and always taught something in the process.

Her death came quietly on the evening of January 24, surrounded by Community members and nursing staff. An exceptional life ended in that strength and simplicity for which she was known. Although we feel sorrow at her passing, we are filled with joy at the remembrance of Adele, her gifts and talents, and the blessing she was to our Franciscan Community.



S. Margie Niemer
for the Council

SISTER ADELE (FORMERLY S. KAREN) ZAHN

Birth: May 12, 1919

Entrance into Religious Life: December 28, 1937

Entrance into Eternal Life: January 24, 2018

MISSIONS AT WHICH S. ADELE SERVED:

1941-1943	Our Lady of the Angels High School, St. Bernard, Ohio
1943-1944	Fordham University, New York – Student
1944-1945	Our Lady of the Angels High School, St. Bernard, Ohio
1945-1949	Immaculate Conception Academy, Oldenburg, Indiana
1949-1953	Fordham University, New York – Student
1953-2008	Marian (College) University, Indianapolis, Indiana
2008-2009	Volunteer, Marian University, Indianapolis, Indiana
2009-2018	Motherhouse, Oldenburg, Indiana

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Weigel Funeral Home – visit their website to view Sister's online memorial, and if desired, an online condolence may be left on the site to share with her family and the Franciscan Sisters – www.Weigelfh.com

Memorial Donations in Sister's memory may be given online at www.OldenburgFranciscans.org