

October 12, 2020

Dear Sisters and Associates,

On October 6, 2020 one month and two days shy of turning 96, Associate Alberta Bretnitz joined her husband Herman at God's heavenly banquet. Alberta and Herman were the loving parents of three daughters and one son, the loving grandparents of 13, and the loving great-grandparents of 17.



Alberta's journey to the Associate Relationship began when she was a student at Our Lady of Angels and a classmate of Sr. Gloria Gallagher (deceased) who invited her to consider the Associate Relationship. She was proud to say, "All of my schooling was taught by the Franciscan Sisters." Her cousin, Sr. Carol Ann Sunderman (deceased), and Sr. Rose Marie Weckenmann, served as Alberta's contact persons. Alberta signed her commitment on April 6, 2003. She felt that being an Associate would enhance and broaden her spiritual life, and indeed it did. Alberta joined the Associate Group known as the Troubadours who met at Alice Schwab's house. Alice a cousin of Alberta, was also instrumental in Alberta's Franciscan Journey.

Herman and Alberta were members of St. Antonius Parish where Alberta kept herself actively involved serving as: Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Member on the Worship Committee, Participant in Prayer Groups, active in Christ Renews His Parish, member of Cursillo, Sierra Club, visiting homebound and nursing home residents, cleaning the church, and serving as a member of the St. Vincent DePaul Society. In addition, Alberta also distributed Communion to parishioners who were hospitalized at Good Samaritan Hospital. She attended daily Mass holding the Sisters and Associates in prayer. For Alberta, serving others was close to her heart and she was faithful to it serving in some ministries for many years.

When their health allowed, Alberta and Herman spent January through April in Destin, FL which became a bit challenging for Alberta as she missed her family, attending gatherings at the Convent, and meeting with her contact person and Troubadour group.

Alberta was gifted and talented as she enjoyed hosting dinner parties for her family and friends, decorating for various occasions, sewing, knitting, embroidering, and doing various crafting activities. She also enjoyed writing notes and sending cards. Alberta felt bad that she could not be more involved with the Oldenburg Community but her commitment to family and St. Antonius kept the dates on her calendar quite full. When Herman became ill she spent time taking care of him.

Alberta listened to her heart and to the voice of God that resided within her answering God's call to serve those most in need of love. May she rest peacefully in the loving arms of God as she hears God whisper in her ear, "Well done, my good and faithful servant"!

Jane Schaefer