



## SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

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



November 29, 2016

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

S. ANGELA BETSCH, OSF

“I have had a WONDERFUL life!” exclaimed Sister Angela Betsch to members of the General Council who came to see her on November 23. The following night as Thanksgiving Day of 2016 was about to come to a close, Angela peacefully journeyed to her home of everlasting thanksgiving.

Dorothy Bernetta Betsch was born in Cincinnati on December 10, 1925 to Frank and Antoinette Betsch. Sibling Mary was one and a half years older and four girls and three boys followed Dorothy. The children attended St. James School where the Oldenburg Franciscans taught and made a lasting impression on Dorothy. Following graduation from Colerain High School, Dorothy worked as a stenographer in an office in the downtown Cincinnati area. Her older sister Mary had already entered the convent at Oldenburg. When Mary’s temporary profession day arrived, the family attended the ceremony. Following that, Mary asked if Dorothy wouldn’t consider coming to Franciscan life also. Dorothy realized it was what she had always wanted and came to Oldenburg on October 4, 1944, eventually taking “Angela” as her religious name.

From 1946-1970, Angela delighted in being a teacher and principal at five different parish schools. But the death of her sister Alberta caused a nagging thought to recur: How could she help the children go on after the death of their mother? So she asked for a period of exclaustation (absence) to live with the family and nurture the children. In a letter to Mother Marie, Angela wrote:

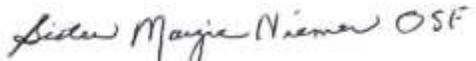
*“The children are fine and working hard in school, doing very well.  
John, the three-year old, and I are getting along very well. He speaks of his mother often.  
We are praying for a new mom so maybe you will help us in that prayer.”*

On returning to religious life, Angela resumed her teaching career and also served four years as a nurse’s aide in our healthcare facility. But in 1987, another nagging thought began to recur: Was God calling her to serve as a missionary in Papua New Guinea? For the next three and a half years she delighted in the new culture and the eagerness of the children to learn. On her return to the United States she ministered as a tutor for Catholic Charities and then retired to Oldenburg where she drove other Sisters to medical appointments and helped with mailings in the Advancement Office.

We extend our sympathy to S. Angela’s family, friends and loyal students. Many thanks to all who assisted Sr. Angela in these last few months, especially the staff of our St. Clare Hall Healthcare Facility.

Whenever a person would ask Angela about teaching, being a principal, serving as a nurse's aide or ministering in Papua New Guinea, she would always begin her remarks by saying, "It was WONDERFUL!" Our Franciscan Family believes it was WONDERFUL to count Sister Angela Betsch among our members. May her heartfelt joy continue to permeate our lives here on earth.

In heartfelt thanksgiving,

  
Sister Margie Niemer  
*for the General Council*

### SISTER ANGELA (DOROTHY) BETSCH, OSF

Born: December 10, 1925

Entered Religious Life: October 4, 1944

Entered Eternal Life: November 24, 2016

### PLACES WHERE S. ANGELA MINISTERED:

1946-1948	Immaculate Conception, Old Monroe, MO
1948-1955	St. Ann, Hamilton, OH
1955-1967	Holy Trinity, Indianapolis, IN
1967-1968	St. Anthony, Dayton, OH
1968-1970	St. Bernard, Taylor Creek, Cincinnati, OH
1970-1971	Leave of absence
1971-1976	St. Bernard, Taylor Creek, Cincinnati, OH
1976-1979	St. Anthony, Streator, IL
1979-1983	Sacred Heart, Troy, MO
1983-1987	Motherhouse, Nursing Staff
1987-1991	St. Francis Parish, Tari, PNG
1991-1993	Catholic Charities, Chicago, IL
1993-1996	Motherhouse, Oldenburg, IN
1996-2003	Communications Office, Oldenburg, IN
2003-2016	Motherhouse, Oldenburg, IN

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

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