

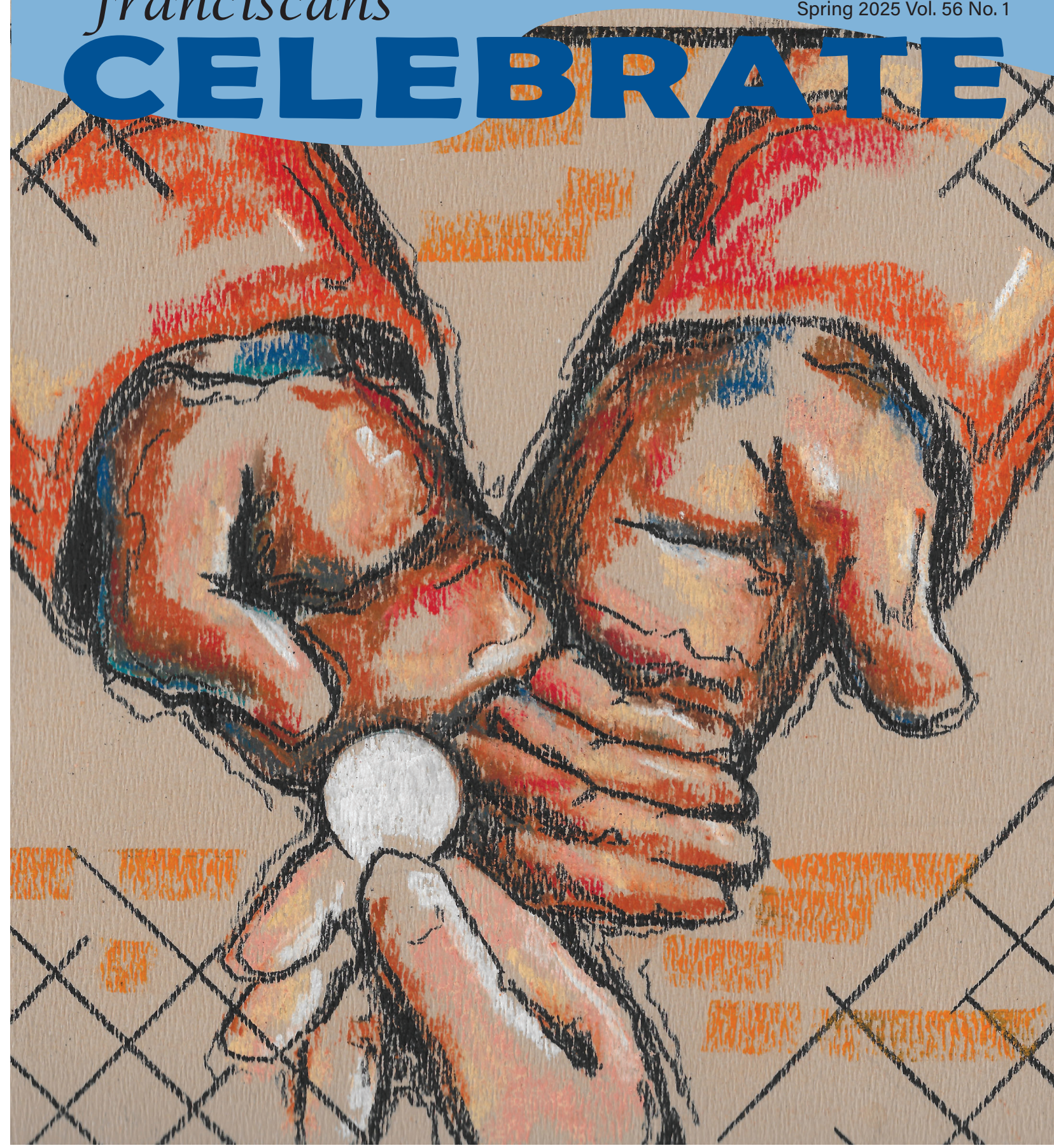
Sisters of St. Francis

Oldenburg, Indiana

franciscans

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CELEBRATE



ABOUT US

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From the Leadership Team



With the opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica on December 24, Pope Francis officially declared 2025 as a Year of Jubilee, a custom that dates back to the thirteenth century. Further, he announced that the theme of the 2025 Jubilee would be Pilgrims of Hope. What an appropriate theme to be carried into the year preceding the 175th Anniversary of our founding as a Congregation which will take place in 2026. It is also an important reminder of our baptismal call to be people of hope.

According to scripture, a Jubilee year was to be marked every 50 years, since this would be an "extra" year, one which would happen every seven weeks of seven years, i.e., every 49 years (cf. Leviticus 25:8-13). Even though it was not easy to organize, it was intended to be marked as a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation, and involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields. Pope Francis has designated the 2025 Holy Year as a time to renew ourselves as "Pilgrims of Hope." He also suggests several ways to bring Christ and his message of hope to the world, for example, by working for peace and an end to conflicts, promoting human life, showing amnesty to prisoners, upholding the dignity of migrants, healing the sick, and accompanying the elderly – or even through the forgiveness of debts, a custom of jubilee years in the Old Testament.

It is quite fitting then that in this issue we highlight our Sister Jubilarians who exhibit Hope to our world in so many ways. Through their ministry and presence, they certainly live out our commitment to the Gospel. They continue to venture on "with simplicity, with openness and with joy" (taken from the Epilogue of our Vision and Journey) I hope you too will be inspired by them.

Our feature on Sister Noella Poinsette, who visits an immigration (ICE) detention center weekly, also speaks to the call to be Pilgrims of Hope. Sister Noella certainly exemplifies this as she brings Christ's compassion, love and joy to those whose hope may be diminished. A reminder to us, though, that our hope is often deepened as a result of these encounters.

Both our donor spotlight, Betsy Savare, and the article on our Associates continue to speak to the Pilgrims of Hope among us. Again – a reminder that we do not have to look far for models of inspiration at a time when our hope seems to have been dimmed.

"Rich in our traditions: faith to dare, hope to seek, love to endure, courage to venture," a section from the Epilogue of our Vision and Journey (our Rule and Constitution) so poignantly reminds us that as Franciscans we are called to continue to seek hope. We encourage all who read this issue to embrace their call this coming year to be Pilgrims of Hope in a world that is so in need of this vision.

Blessings!

S. Robbie Pentecost, OSF
For the Leadership Team

Meet Betsy Savare...

Betsy Savare's life exemplifies a journey of love, compassion, and dedication. As the oldest of five children, she grew up moving from place to place due to her father's job in insurance. This early exposure to change prepared her for a life filled with adventure and service. After a fulfilling marriage of 25 years, and a successful career in business, Betsy found herself drawn back to her roots, inspired by the Franciscan Sisters of Oldenburg.



Her connection began in the sixth and seventh grade at St. Lawrence School in Indianapolis, where Betsy was taught by Sister Cecilia Schroeder, affectionately known as Sister Celie. Even at a young age, Betsy was deeply moved by the Sisters' joy and their unwavering concern for those less fortunate. This early impression left a lasting mark on her life.

Years later, when Sister Celie faced a recurrence of cancer, Betsy traveled every six weeks from New Jersey to spend time with her until her passing in 2007. In a poignant moment, Betsy held Sister Celie's hand as she passed away, a testament to the enduring bond they shared. After Sister Celie's funeral, Betsy discovered a packet of information about becoming an Associate of the Sisters of St. Francis, which Sister Celie had left for her. This marked the beginning of Betsy's journey as an Associate, a role she made official in 2009.

Betsy's connection with the Sisters deepened as she chose Sister Therese Gillman as her contact Sister and current housemate. As an Associate, Betsy volunteers and supports the Sisters' activities and dedicates time in assisting the Advancement department. Her motivation stems from a deep belief in their mission and a desire to give back to those who have given to so many. "I want them to enjoy their retirement after giving so much of themselves for all of us," she says, reflecting her commitment to their well-being.

"I want them to enjoy their retirement after giving so much of themselves for all of us,"

Betsy's generosity extends beyond the Sisters, as she also supports food pantries, a woman's shelter, and the New Opportunity School for Women. Her philosophy is simple yet profound: "The whole point of why we are living is to love." When not dedicating her time to these causes, Betsy enjoys reading, traveling, and playing cards. Her travels have taken her to Italy, Peru, and Florida, with Hawaii on her bucket list.

Betsy loves spending time with her family. She is a proud mother of two daughters, one who lives in New Jersey and the other in Pennsylvania, and a grandmother of three. Betsy's trips to visit her family includes special celebrations, an annual girls' wine trip, and a week at the beach with her children and grandchildren, her siblings and all their children and grandchildren.

Betsy's story is a testament to the power of compassion and dedication, and we are grateful she is part of our community.

If you have a story of how your journey was inspired or influenced by the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg we would love to hear from you at communications@oldenburgfranciscans.org.

Associates - Living the Franciscan Values

by Carolyn Meyer

The Associate movement is one of the fastest growing movements of laity within the Catholic Church. Vatican II reminded all baptized Christians of the universal call to holiness. Religious congregations began to return to their founding charisms for inspiration and as men and women began to deepen their lives of prayer, service, and community, they were drawn by the charisms of religious communities.

The Associate relationship with the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg has provided an opportunity for people who share their Franciscan spirit to join them in service and prayer for over 40 years. In April of 1981 three women were received as Associates, with the initial intent of focusing on their spiritual well being and growth. Today, 194 Associates live out their mission statement, "to be a presence of Jesus Christ, especially to those who are powerless, who are poor, who are oppressed," in many different ways.

Associates hold the same Franciscan values as the Sisters and experience support from them in their commitment to living the Gospel. Associates attend special events at Oldenburg including Community Days, prayer days, and retreats. Many Associates belong to small groups with other Associates and Sisters gathering to pray together or discuss articles or books. Associates join the Sisters in many of their missions such as helping at the local Food Pantry, raising money to support others in their outreach goals, and caring for an Earth threatened by drastic climate change.

The Oldenburg Franciscan Associates have their own narrative, woven into the tapestry of Community life. There is a story of growth and change and a promising vision for the future. The Associates look forward to growing in this special relationship by continuing in their social activities as well, such as bringing special treats to the

Sisters who live in St. Clare Hall, planning seasonal parties for them, and preparing a pancake breakfast each fall. More opportunities to maintain the current relationship and to inspire this relationship to grow as we move into the future is the goal of an Associate Sustainability Committee. They will work with the Associate Co-directors to expand their vision of what it means to be an Associate and identify the support necessary to be faith-filled followers of Saints Francis and Clare. You will be able to read more about the Sustainability Committee in the fall issue of Celebrate.



CELEBRATING OUR 2025 SISTER JUBILARIANS

75 YEARS



Sister Lorraine Geis

"One letter in one word changed my life," so says Sister Lorraine Geis. When asked how she came to minister in Papua, New Guinea, she begins with saying she was very happy teaching primary children in St. Louis, USA. But the summer after our first sisters arrived in PNG, Sister Lorraine kept hearing news of their work in Mendi, PNG. Then one day she prayed at Mass, "Agnus Dei, qui tollis pecata Mendi" instead of ... Mundi. She saw it as a call from the Holy Spirit. A week later she was applying for a passport.

When describing her 40 years of PNG ministry, what stands out are the years at Tari High School where her favorite subjects to teach were math and agriculture. (Coming from generations of German farmers and growing up on a farm in Connersville, Indiana, must have been remote preparation for tilling the very different soil of the island nation.)

Agriculture was vital to the school. There were 500 mouths to feed, and the work of the students fed them. Each student had a garden plot and raised coffee, pineapples, bananas, and/or local vegetables. Every day the students would bring "homework"- carefully gathered ashes, compost, mulch, broken-up limestone, and manure - which was applied to the growing crops. Sister laughs as she tells about the girl who was late one day because she could find no manure and had to "sit and wait for some." - Sister Mary Ann Stoffregen



Sister Madonna Bishop grew up in a family of nine girls and two boys. She was a twin with her brother Harold. As her father said they only got boys when they had twins. Her sister Thelma, was a twin with her brother Jerry. She and her sisters Rosaire and Thelma were all in the convent at the same time. When in the eighth grade and high school, Sister Madonna worked as a nurse's aide at the hospital.

As someone said, Sister Madonna was a "Jill" of all trades. She taught in grade schools in Ohio and Indiana for 12 years, and then later taught many different subjects in several high schools in Indianapolis.

Then in 1987 her mom started to need care, so Sister Madonna took care of her while still teaching full time. She said it was the most rewarding experience and taught her how to live simply and to see what was really important in life.

After her mom died, Sister Madonna took training to become an LPN. She said that she learned that listening was a very important part of nursing. She used her nursing skills at Oldenburg working as a nurse's aide in the infirmary until she retired. In retirement, Sister Madonna enjoys her African violets and listening to music. - Sister Donna Rohman

70 YEARS



Sister Jane Frey was gifted by nature, family background, education, and a wealth of life experiences. Imitating God as the world's Creator, she brought into existence various creations.

She gave her family a life-time treasure, a Frey Family Tree of ten generations.

At Oldenburg, Sister Jane was involved in Formation work with the Aspirants. She also instructed the postulants and novices with the sewing of their religious habit.

Sister Jane taught in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis for 24 years. She taught religion and home economics.

A second career for her was in the Pastoral Counseling field for 35 years in Virginia, Maryland, Cleveland, and Cincinnati. She began a private practice, the Pastoral Counseling Service program, ministering through a retreat house and

parishes as Director, Therapist, and Pastoral Counselor. Her belief is "the Spirit of God is upon me; He has anointed me, He sent me to bring Good News to the poor, and to heal the broken hearted," Luke, 4:18 - Sister Rose Lima Frerick



Sister Davida Lund

"The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery." (Mark Van Doren) Sister Davida (Linda) spent a good part of her life doing just that, helping grade school children discover their potential and ultimately their future.

Sister Davida's first experience of the Oldenburg Franciscans came as a child at Little Flower School in Indianapolis. As a student in St. Mary's Academy, she joined the Third Order Secular. Her experience with the Sisters and her personal experience with the Third Order led to her joining the Oldenburg congregation.

Sister Davida spent many years in education, teaching in Illinois, Indiana, Missouri and Ohio. She has taught all grades but says her favorite ones to teach are fourth and fifth grade. One story she tells is teaching grades one, two and three in one room. She says, "It was a learning experience." No question

about that! Sister Davida continued to use her experience in parish work in Kentucky and tele-ministry/receptionist at St. Anthony Press in Cincinnati. Not one to sit still, she continues to volunteer at the Motherhouse now.

One of her best memories was a trip to Assisi and Rome. Unfortunately, the trip coincided with the earthquake that occurred in the Assisi region, and she had to move out of the hotel. Ever adaptable, she and her traveling companions enjoyed many other Franciscan historical sites. Sister Davida's prayerfulness, smile, and sense of humor bless us all each day. - Sister Margaret Maher

CELEBRATING OUR 2025 SISTER JUBILARIANS

70 YEARS



Sister Evelyn Lindenmaier

From the musical CAROUSEL we hear "Walk on, walk on with hope in your heart and you'll never walk alone." This could be the theme song for Sister Evelyn Lindenmaier as she celebrates her Jubilee with her deceased twin Rachel in her heart.

Sister Evelyn joined the Oldenburg Franciscans and then taught 40 years in schools in Indiana and Ohio where she felt especially close to the poor and slower students. She then moved on to do telemarketing with the friars at St. Anthony Messenger. At the same time Sister Evelyn was the caregiver for Ernie Piller, Sister Barb Piller's uncle.

In 2003 Sister Evelyn was asked to come to Oldenburg to work in the Communications Office and she helped there for ten years. While at Oldenburg, she started doing woodworking, making bird houses and other items. Folks called her "Sister Fixit" because she loved to make and repair things and had done this with Rachel through the years. They also relaxed enjoying sports, especially rooting for the Colts.

After Sister Evelyn retired, the head nurse on 3rd floor SCH asked her if she would do activities and games with the sisters on that floor. And so she did, bringing fun times to the sisters there. As Sister Evelyn says, "I call myself a retread because I keep on being busy." - Sister Donna Rohman



Sister Carol Slinger

Sister Carol came to this congregation seventy years ago after being taught by the Oldenburg Franciscans in her home parish grade school watching and being a recipient of their dedication. We, and her many students, are blessed by her presence. It has been said that the best teachers teach from the heart, not from the book. This is totally embodied by Sister Carol Slinger. Sister Carol's entire ministerial life has been dedicated to presenting and explaining the mysteries of math and physics to high school and college students. Sister Carol could take the most complicated and seemingly difficult concepts of math or physics and that idea down to a completely understandable lesson. It takes skill and practice, but most of all a personal understanding of what is being taught. That is taking the lesson out of the book and getting it through to the student. That is teaching from the heart. No small feat!

Sister Carol is a woman of many talents and her ability to work with the fiber arts is just one. Her hand knitted afghans are works of art. Her quilting and embroidery work leave nothing to be desired except to put it in a frame. Her work has been gifted to our benefactors and to her family.

When asked what she might say about her life Sister Carol said, "Working with the students enriched my life and broadened my views. The teacher learned from her students, the best lesson of all." - Sister Margaret Maher

60 YEARS



Sister Annette Grisley

Sister Annette, the eldest of six and the only daughter, grew up at St. Bernadette's in Indianapolis. For 23 years she taught language arts and religion, mostly in the intermediate/junior high grades. During those years, she often served the local parish as an organist. Sister Annette became involved with the RCIA program while teaching in Charlestown, IN. She identifies this experience as the catalyst which sparked her desire for additional training and a ministry transition into pastoral work. For the next 25 years in two parishes, she continued to treasure learning from numerous enthusiastic RCIA candidates and watching each one grow.

Our community called Sister Annette into elected leadership in 2018. Her fondness for those years of humble service was found in the privilege of getting to know sisters on a deeper level. Sister Annette has just begun ministering as the Liturgy Coordinator for the community. As a Pilgrim of Hope during this Jubilee Year, Sister Annette "hopes for peace between all nations as well as within our country." Additionally, "she hopes for peace in her own heart so she can share with others." Trusting in God's care and using her God-given gifts, especially in challenging times, has served Sister Annette very well for 60 years! - Sister Susan Marie Pleiss



Sister Janet Linz

Community was known and experienced by Sister Janet Linz long before she entered the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg. She grew up in a family of seven children and lived in a neighborhood where everyone knew one another. The family home was where her mom played the piano and family and friends gathered for sing-a-longs.

Her father and his brother owned a family business which was named AJ Linz and Sons. The whole family worked to keep the company going and learned to give unconditionally.

Sister Janet learned early in life that when there was a need in the local community, the family gathered to help in whatever way possible. This prepared her well to enter the Franciscan Community in 1965. She has been a lifelong educator as a teacher, a principal, and now she works with high school students to ensure they graduate. In her spare time, she enjoys volunteering at the Hamilton County Juvenile Detention Center.

Through all these ministries, Sister Janet has learned that a community fosters a sense of belonging where all can thrive, and everyday issues can be addressed in a more just and equitable way for the common good of all. Her definition of community has broadened over the years through the connections she has made and the deepening of these relationships. - Sister Maggie Rahe

CELEBRATING OUR 2025 SISTER JUBILARIANS

60 YEARS



Sister Joanita Koors

"Throughout my life I have been so blessed to have God as the center of my life from whom all blessings have flowed." This quote from Sister Joanita imbibes her living truth.

She was born the second of eight children, a Greensburg girl, enriched by family love, faith, nature, and education. Among her noted life changing events which she treasures deeply is the trip to Assisi, a gift from St. Mary's Parish, North Vernon, Indiana.

Ministering in the Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis all her life, Sister Joanita received several educational awards including, Teacher of the Year, Distinguished Principal award, No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School award and more. Besides her teaching and administrative roles in education, she has served on the leadership team for the Sisters of St. Francis from

2012-2018 and continues her generous and loving services now as "Minister" to all the residents at the Motherhouse. Her love of nature and beauty is very visible in the flower gardens that enhance our campus.

As a model of faith-filled servant leadership, Sister Joanita has touched countless lives and contributed greatly to the history of Catholic education and our community. With her faith filled dedication and leadership she is a shining star to all of us. In Sister Joanita's closing words: "Loving the people of each place I served was the greatest treasure of all." - Sister Bernice Roell

60 YEARS



Sister Maureen Irvin

If you were told to pick out the sister whose 8th grade conduct score caused her to fear she might not be selected to be an aspirant at the Academy, it is unlikely that Sister Maureen Irvin would have been your first choice. In many ways this helped thrust Sister Maureen onto this journey called religious life. Influenced by a gift of a prayer book from her great-aunt, the stirring began and so in February of 1966 Sister Maureen entered the Sisters of St. Francis.

Sister Maureen, the second oldest of five children, was taught by the Sisters of St. Francis in her early grades and they were the ones that inspired her love of teaching. While Sister Maureen spent her early days in community as a teacher, with Vatican II and the wider opening for ministry, Sister Maureen explored other ministries.

Each of these new ministries opened new avenues for growth. For Sister Maureen, "Community saw things in me that I didn't see in myself". As Sister Maureen looks over these past 60 years she is filled with gratitude and a sense of awe as she "sees God's fingerprint throughout her life." Sister Maureen also notes that her hope is grounded in the goodness of God and the goodness of people who help us to fulfill our potential. - Sister Robbie Pentecost



Sister Christa Franzer

Sister Christa lives from a heart full of gratitude as she strives daily to be true to her Christ-like name. Born in Dayton, Ohio, the oldest of three children, she grew up loving to teach. Math and Religion became her favored subjects.

Sister Christa has modeled Servant Leadership especially in our sponsored institutions. She ministered in varying positions of administration and leadership. She served as principal and as co-resident director at Oldenburg Academy. Sister Christa established the first office of Human Resources at Marian University. Many enriching experiences resulted from serving as assistant treasurer for the community, preparing her for congregational leadership.

Sister Christa enjoyed being in leadership, especially the team experience. She served in elected leadership positions for 18 years, the last six (2018-2024) of which she served as our Congregational Minister. The three terms were markedly different: the first witnessing renovation and growth; the last, exploring partnership and letting go.

In Sister Christa's words: "In all the dimensions of my life, I continue to be amazed by God's invitations, often offered through others, which brings one to circumstances one would never have pursued on one's own initiative."

God is so GOOD! We are so very grateful for Sister Christa. - Sister Bernice Roell



Sister Marjorie English

Sister Marj realizes that she has always been on a spiritual quest, from her childhood years when biking her paper route while enjoying nature gave her time alone away from family noise, to her teen years at ICA when she was elected Student Council Representative but longed to be the Sodality Prefect, to her desire to help young people learn and lead healthier, happier lives, to her work with adults desiring to deepen their interior lives.

She calls herself an "experiential learner", explaining that in her ministries she never felt fully prepared, but she said "yes" when someone "tapped her on the shoulder." She embraced the challenge - teaching, vocation/formation ministry, counseling, cross-cultural Franciscan experience in Cameroon, leadership, spiritual direction and retreat work - she learned by experience, succeeded, and ended up loving the ministry.

The 11 years Sister Marj spent as Spiritual Services Coordinator at Prairiewoods Franciscan Eco-Spirituality Center were a kind of capstone to her ministries, giving her the opportunity to use the many gifts we see in her and the many learnings she has developed along the way in her spiritual quest. How else could she have been ready to fearlessly lead the 2024 Chapter Planning Task Force? - Sister Mary Ann Stoffregen

CELEBRATING OUR 2025 SISTER JUBILARIANS

60 YEARS



Sister Irma Arnold

Sister Irma Arnold is a dedicated elementary school teacher and OCIA director at St. Joseph School/Parish in Hauptstadt, IN. She has been a teacher for 56 years—36 years in first grade and 20 in fourth grade. In addition, she has led RCIA/OCIA for 25 years.

She is a graduate of St. Joseph Grade School (in the county) near Evansville and of Immaculate Conception Academy (now OA) in Oldenburg. Her elementary school teachers, who were Oldenburg Franciscans, inspired her vocation. As a sixth grader, she was asked to write about what she wanted to do and found herself writing that she wanted to be a sister to teach little children about God.

She never dreamed she would also be teaching adults in OCIA. She said that both experiences have been part of the journey God has planned for her.

She commented, "At times I can almost feel the Holy Spirit in the room. It is faith-filling to see people falling in love with God. Just being allowed to teach God's servants is a gift. I have a way of letting children know they are truly loved; putting the love God has for me into my students." Gardening and being outdoors also help to enhance her spirituality. - Sister Mary Lynne Calkins



Sister Charity Kraeszig grew up working with children at an early age, being the oldest of five sisters and three brothers. Some enjoyable parts of her library career were working with high school students to do audio-visual media projects to submit for classroom assignments. They then submitted the projects to the Indiana Media Fair.

She also enjoyed doing craft projects with students in grades three through six at the Batesville Memoiral Public Library. They did things like greeting cards with yarn and jars of homemade bath salts for Mother's Day. Sister Charity also enjoyed participating in the Edible Book Festival sponsored by the Children's Librarian at the library.

Her library connections have also crossed over into the volunteer sector. The Indianapolis organization for adult literacy called Indy Reads always needed volunteer tutors, in which she participated for a while. She enjoyed

going to the annual fundraiser, the Alphabet Affair, and dressing for the letter of the alphabet for that year.

As you can see, she has spent most of her 60 years in Religious Life involved in library/reading or related endeavors, which has proven to be very satisfying. - Sister Rose Lima Frerick

60 YEARS



Sister Melanie Bair

The life and ministry of Sister Melanie Bair can best be described as overflowing gratitude – a deep, lived awareness of daily blessing. A native of Richmond, Indiana, Sister Melanie's high energy for meeting people and forming strong bonds of friendship with everyone she encounters has served her well as a Sister of St. Francis. Following her Gospel call, Sister Melanie began her religious life as an educator, functioning as both teacher and administrator. Later, her teaching skills took her to South Korea, where she provided English instruction. Sister Melanie's service as group-mother and educator at St. Vincent Orphanage further revealed a deep compassion for the underserved.

After completing a time of Community service as the Director of Development, Sister Melanie became the Executive Director of Boys Hope Girls Hope in Cincinnati. This ministry of outreach led to her most recent role as Coordinator of Benevolence for Prasco Laboratories in Mason, Ohio.

Today, Sister Melanie continues her best ministry of all—the ministry of presence. Her natural warmth and inclusive manner have brought her priceless connections where she experiences the grace of human encounter. She finds her treasure in sharing "the great gift of life, our sacred pilgrimage." - Sister Delouise Menges

25 YEARS



Sister Kathleen Branham

For Jubilarian Sister Kathleen Branham, God's invitation to a deep relationship was felt already as a child. During a time of serious illness at age five, she sensed that God was directing the course of her life. The passage from Jeremiah 29: "For I know the plans that I have for you, plans to prosper you. . . to give you hope and a future" became a personal mantra as she matured into adulthood. Oldenburg Franciscans, who provided her elementary and secondary education, proved to be a strong influence, as well. With the solid conviction that God's plan was unfolding, Sister Kathleen finally stepped into religious life and discovered it to be "the greatest blessing".

Sister Kathleen has utilized her abundance of personal gifts in ministry. As a social worker, she has been an advocate for special needs adults and for children in the foster care system. Serving as the Community's Director

of Vocations for several years sparked other interests and led to the position she currently holds as Director of Data Base Administration for the National Religious Vocation Conference. As Sister Kathleen celebrates 25 years in religious life, she exclaims, "It's amazing to see what God has done for me!" - Sister Delouise Menges

CELEBRATING OUR 2025 SISTER JUBILARIANS

25 YEARS



Sister Jannette Pruitt

"I thank God for the two vocations given to me; One is being a mother of three beautiful children, and now I have seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. The other is being an Oldenburg Franciscan where I find in my sister friends much wisdom and spirituality." Sister Jannette was raised in Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi as a cradle Catholic in a loving family. After raising her family and sojourns in California and New Orleans, she found our community while teaching at St. Rita's in Indianapolis.

Sister Jannette is grateful that her good friends, twin brothers, and SVD priests, Chester and Charles, got her started in making Afrocentric vestments for priests and deacons; She even recently vested our current Archbishop Thompson with an Afrocentric bishop's miter! She also enjoyed ministering at several parishes as the Coordinator of Religious Education, including at

Sacred Heart with 2000 families in Richmond, Texas. One of Sister Jannette's enduring ministry accomplishments is a women's circle for African-American women that she started at St. Rita's in Indianapolis over 25 years ago. The group, called "Ku Pona Dada" (meaning: get well, my sister in Swahili) gathers regularly in member's homes to nurture one another's spirit. Thank you, Sister Jannette, for your gifts of kindness, creativity, and loving presence in our world! - Sister Susan Marie Pleiss

Make a Lasting Impact: Become a Monthly Donor Today

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our current donors and monthly supporters whose generosity is instrumental in supporting the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, as they continue their mission of service and compassion. We are especially thankful for our monthly donors, whose consistent support makes a profound difference month after month. Their recurring gifts provide a steady foundation ensuring that the Sisters can continue their vital work in promoting peace, justice, and reconciliation. By joining our community of monthly givers, you too can help sustain these impactful ministries and contribute to a legacy of care and compassion. To become a part of this meaningful journey, visit our website, www.oldenburgfranciscans.org, to set up a recurring donation today.

If you have specific questions, wish to discuss planned giving options, or would like more information on how your donation can make an impact, please do not hesitate to reach out to Jen Waning, Director of Advancement, at 812-933-6554 or via email at jen.waning@oldenburgfranciscans.org. You can donate online or send your gift to the Sisters of St. Francis, Advancement Office, P.O. Box 100, Oldenburg, IN 47036.

A Mission of Prayer and Hope

**Names have been changed to protect the privacy of individuals.*

For the past three years, Sister Noella Poinsette has spent her Tuesdays with immigrants at an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention center. They are currently overbooked, with some only having mattresses on the floor. The immigrants are housed in cement blocks - no windows and no outdoor time. It's not welcoming, but there is no place Sister Noella would rather be - a time of prayer, Scripture, communion, songs and hope - simply being blessed by these men. It's the best day of the week for all of them. There are no guards or staff in the room with them as they gather in honest conversations and are God's love for each other.

A typical visit includes standing in a circle to sing and clap "Alabaré a Mi Señor" (I Will Praise my Lord). The joy and elation can be felt throughout the room as they celebrate their Creator. Scripture passages are read and Sister Noella connects these to their lives. She isn't fluent in Spanish but they understand her message. She often reminds them of their dignity, God's love and delight in them, and that Jesus walks with

them on their "way of the cross". When her Spanish falters there is usually one who can translate, offering this gift. Prayers are shared for their needs and those of the world, songs are sung, communion is received. They



end with a song, often "Ven Con Nosotros, Emmanuel" (Come to Us, Emmanuel). It is a song about prosperity for all people, an end to hatred, war and violence - what the Kingdom of God is meant to be. Sister Noella does this with each of the three cell blocks she visits - about 80 gentlemen.

Sister Noella never knows who will be there when she arrives. Some faces are

familiar and some are new. Many have had court dates and simply disappear; some are released to return to their families here while most are deported - even those who have no memory of their home country. She doesn't know all their stories, but they're not unlike our ancestors' stories: death squads, persecution, children dying from hunger, war. She continues to pray for each of them carrying them always in her heart.

These immigrant detainees are from more than forty countries, including Ireland, Mexico, Guatemala, Iraq, Venezuela, Philippines, Poland, India, Moldova, Egypt, Nigeria, and Spain. Some

chose a wrong path in their younger days like other young people who are born here. Some had minor infractions like having a broken taillight while others were working hard to make a living for their families. Some were brought here when they were toddlers, and some are refugees fleeing to escape death. What they share with each other and with us is a desire for security and for honest

A Mission of Prayer and Hope

work. They love this country and are trying to make a better life for their families that enriches all of us in the United States.

Mateo* first came to the United States in 1993 with his brother. They were looking for a better opportunity, an easier life than they had in Mexico. He tried to get a green card, but couldn't. In 2016, he put an application in for citizenship and was denied. He has lived in the United States more than half his life. He was working at a restaurant in Chicago, like he has been doing for many years, when he was picked up by ICE. He had never been in trouble with the law. His employers at the restaurant are worried about him. He was a good, loyal employee. His money helped support his wife and parents, still in Guadalajara. She did not come here with him for fear of being raped along the way. He expects to be sent back to Mexico after his court date. His brother has already been sent back.

Roger* came to the United States from the Philippines when he was 15 years old with his father and siblings. He is currently 48. He has a green card, which serves

as proof he is lawfully living in the United States as a permanent resident. His record is not as clean as Matteo's. He got with the wrong crowd when he was in his 20's and got involved in drugs. He feels he has paid his debt to society for that and did not get in trouble again. Roger has five kids, all born and raised here. He has been married for sixteen years. He has held a full-time job in Illinois where he showed up every day and worked hard, had no violations, and was the go-to guy for service at his company. In January 2025, he was sent to the lunchroom by his boss. Waiting for him were three policemen with a warrant for his arrest. He hasn't done anything wrong since that initial charge. But they took him out in handcuffs in front of his co-workers and friends. He wants to continue his life here with his family. He had his court date and was returned to his home country. He had previously stated if that happened, he would be "robbed of his family"

Michel* came to the U.S. from the Republic of Congo as a refugee. He is married and has three children. He has worked hard at having a normal life here in the U.S. He went to work and tried to stay healthy. His life in central Africa was far from normal, with the majority of his tribe being killed. There is still conflict there today. It will not be a peaceful return for him if that is the outcome. You could



hear the fear in his voice as he talked about his upcoming court date. He feels going back will be a death sentence. For him, to be here in the U.S. not only means a better life, it means life itself. The results of Michel's court date are currently unknown.



Bryan* fled a Communist dictatorship with his wife; they applied for asylum in 2005. Now they have four children (ages 4-16). He has never been in trouble with the law. He has reported in for his interview every year; this time he was sent to a detention center. He shared his

frustration with Sr. Noella. Where was justice in separating him from his family? By the next Tuesday he had already been deported.

These are only a few of the stories. There are so many more; each person with a unique narrative. Each holding on

to their faith and community built there until their hearing date is announced.

Sister Noella may not be able to change the outcome of their court hearings, but simply by her presence among them she brings hope and joy. Matthew 25:25-34, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me... I was in prison and you came to me." Then the righteous will answer him, saying, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or in prison and visit you...?" And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me"



About Siser Noella

Sister Noella, an Indianapolis native, has always been drawn to the underdog. She was surrounded by that kind of passion in her family. Her grandmother sent money to Indian missions and fed hobos who especially delighted in her homemade fruit pies baked everyday for them. As a fireman, her dad served the community. This included the guys on the other side of the fence which separated the firehouse from the mental health facility; her dad was respectful and friendly with them, always glad to get cigarettes for them. Her mother was the best Girl Scout leader and always helping neighbors with her nursing skills. When Sister Noella was in junior high she befriended a girl at Herron Art School. Angela was the only African American girl there and so, even though Sister Noella was shy then, it was natural for her to reach out.

After entering the Convent, Sister Noella wasted no time getting involved in justice causes. As a young Sister, she heard stories directly from refugees fleeing violence in Central America. In 1983 she went to Nicaragua, four years after the Sandinista revolution; it was like a time travel experience back to the Acts of the Apostles when all shared in the bounty of life. There she fell in love with the people. Later she volunteered at Refugio del Grande, a refugee camp near Harlingen, TX where she taught English as a Second Language (ESL). Since then she has volunteered in Arizona with No Mas Muertes (No More Deaths) treating blistered feet and leaving gallons of water along migrant trails to save lives. In 2019 she spent two weeks at Catholic Charities in Nogales, TX welcoming migrants released by ICE and moving on to join families throughout the country.

Sister Noella's other passions include photography, being in nature, and interacting with people of other cultures. She has exhibited several times. She has been to Central America, Mexico, and with her mother to Ireland, her grandmother's homeland. Since 2019 she serves as the Director of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation. She is passionate about involving others in the ministry of creating a just world for all. Prior to this, she served as choral/instrumental music teacher, parish liturgical music director, campus minister, director of a diocesan refugee program, and pastoral associate for outreach and social justice.

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From the Archives

*Preservation from the most
humble to the most precious*

by S. Mary Ann Stoffegen

Surprise in the Archives

This story begins when I was asked to find information on two sister Sisters, S. Brigitta Weber and S. Regina Weber. That sounded like a simple task. I went to Deceased Sisters Files and pulled out all the "Webers", a good-sized stack. Midway through the pile I spotted Regina Weber. Good! Then, toward the top, I saw Brigitta Weber. Ok! But right behind that file, there was another file also marked Brigitta Weber. Must be a duplicate, I thought.

I was wrong – there were two Brigitta Weber’s. How did that happen? Some digging revealed that both Sisters had the same parents – “Joseph Weber (born in Buerbach, Baden) and Catherine Schreiber Weber (born in Strasburg, Alsace), residents of Oldenburg, Indiana”. Then I looked a little further – the older sister’s baptismal name was Teresa; she was born in 1843, invested in 1860, and died in 1864. The younger sister was baptized Philomena; she was born in 1849, invested in 1866, and died in 1931. The first Brigitta had died before the second Brigitta came to the convent! That’s how it happened!

That was not the only surprise...It turns out that there were three more Weber Sisters with the same parents. That makes six siblings who were called to our young community in its early years. What a family! To make it easier for readers (and me) to keep track, I’ll list them in order of entrance or investiture:

- Sister Euprosina (Julia) Weber – entered 1860, died 1886
- Sister Brigitta (Teresa) Weber -- entered 1860, died 1864
- Sister Brigitta (Philomena) Weber -invested 1866, died 1931
- Sister Regina (Elizabeth) Weber -invested 1866, died 1923
- Sister Fridolina (Barbara) Weber – invested 1869, died 1926
- Sister Camilla (Maria) Weber – invested 1869, died 1884

OFC Happenings



Wednesday, May 7 and Wednesday, June 4: Contemplative Prayer

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Free Will Donation
Guided by contemplatives like Bourgeault, Keating, Rohr, Merton and Adam Buck, we practice contemplative prayer. Share in God’s movement in our lives and reflect on our experiences through this process. All are welcome!



Saturday, May 10: Paint & Sip

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Cost: \$50
Join us for a delightful Mother’s Day paint and sip event! Unleash your creativity while enjoying a morning of painting and sipping. All supplies are included. We will provide ingredients for mimosas. You may also bring your own beverage.



Friday, May 16 and Friday, June 20: Quiet Day of Renewal

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Cost: \$20 for the day/\$80 with Spiritual Direction
Experience a day of renewal and relaxation. Take the time to spend some quiet time on the grounds of Sisters of St. Francis. Explore our library, grab a comfy chair and read or gaze out the window. Spend time to center and renew yourself.



Sunday, May 18: Coffee Talks Ken Wilber & The Integral Life with Jim Bruns, P.E.

10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Free Will Donation
Explore the groundbreaking work of Ken Wilber, a modern philosopher known for his integral theory, which blends psychology, spirituality, science, and philosophy into his framework.



Saturday, June 7: Women’s Day Celebration

9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Cost: \$60 Keynote speaker: Cory Lockhart
Come share and connect with other women at this social event designed to celebrate you! Coffee, breakfast, and lunch provided. There will be massages, crafts, meditation, chair yoga, and essential oil demonstrations.



Saturday, June 21: Jungian Spirituality: East meets West

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Cost: \$30/\$45 with CEU’s
Explore the intersection of Jungian psychology and Eastern spirituality, uncovering deep insights into the human psyche and spiritual journey through Western analytical psychology, religion and Eastern wisdom traditions.



Sunday, June 22: Coffee Talk: The Soul Behind the Voice: Karen Carpenter’s Faith and Legacy

10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Free Will Donation
We will delve into the life of this extremely gifted woman gone way too soon. Her death at the age of 32 shocked the music world, but her legacy lives on.

Website: www.oldenburgfranciscans.org
 Email: center@oldenburgfranciscans.org
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/OldenburgFranciscanCenter

A ministry of the Sisters of St. Francis - Oldenburg, Indiana

Resting in God...

Sister Daria Mitchell

Sep. 22, 1945 - Nov. 6, 2024



In the early afternoon of November 6, 2024, Sister Daria (formerly S. Alisa) Mitchell quietly and without any fanfare, which was her custom, moved on to her heavenly home joyously welcomed by Francis, Clare, and her deceased family and friends. She arrived in time to celebrate the Memorial of Blessed John Dun Scotus, a Scottish Priest and Franciscan Friar who was one of her favorite philosopher-theologians. May she now enjoy the fullness of our faith in our loving God.

Daria was born to Kenneth William Mitchell and Daria Helen Bradestege Mitchell on September 22, 1945, in Hamilton, Ohio. Daria was the oldest child of 6 children - four girls and two boys. As she described, "our family is large, and it gets very lively when we get together. We are famous for "pitch-ins" for holiday dinners." Daria looked forward to gathering with family, friends and classmates and so generously shared her love of cooking. Daria loved playing Scrabble and her primary goal for much of her life was to play against her mother and win.

Daria's life was full, with thirty-seven years in teaching and the remainder of her ministry committed to spreading her love of the Franciscan spirit. Daria was taught by the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, from grade one through high school, so it was not surprising that she joined our community. She described it as a "homecoming" and attributed her vocation to the many sisters who taught her along the way.

Daria entered the community February 2, 1963. She earned a bachelor's degree in English from Marian College in Indianapolis and a master's in education and educational leadership from Miami University in Ohio. She then spent the next thirty-seven years teaching and as a principal in Cincinnati. Her philosophy, which she modeled so beautifully, was "if everyone, administrators, staff, teachers, and parents work together, students will come in, feel loved and will learn."

In August 2001 S. Daria became a graduate student at St. Bonaventure and on to a new adventure, earning a master's degree in Franciscan Studies in May 2003. She began working for The Franciscan Institute at St. Bonaventure, and also for the Franciscan Federation helping with the Franciscan Prayerbook. From 2006-2014 she served as the managing editor for The CORD.

It was during this time that Daria's family began to see that her mom needed more assistance. Daria moved in with her mom. It was a privileged time for Daria and she so graciously and generously served her mother until her death in 2019.

Daria loved to travel and discover new and interesting places along the way. Several sisters were beneficiaries of her love of travel and would join her on various ventures across the country. Daria prioritized gatherings with friends, and was instrumental in helping organize the annual gatherings of her convent classmates, which continue to this day. Daria was a deep thinker with a keen sense of observation. People listened when Daria spoke although she certainly did not want to garner attention. As we stood around her bed praying after her last breaths came to an end, it was observed that Daria would not have liked all this attention on her.

Sister Barb Hileman

Dec. 25, 1933 - Nov. 22, 2024

On Friday, November 22, at 10:00 a.m. our dear Sister Barb Hileman slipped peacefully into eternity, where she was greeted by our Loving God. Her relatively swift journey home was a surprise to all of us. Prior to a massive stroke on Wednesday, November 13, Barb was still up and around, participating in community and family events. Although she was slowing down and had recently moved to St. Clare Hall, our healthcare facility, no one expected her to welcome Sister Death so soon.

Barbara Jean Hileman was a Christmas gift from God to her family, born in her grandparents' home on December 25, 1933, in Anna, IL. Her parents, Robert (Ted) and Evelyn (Howenstein) Hileman later welcomed two additional children, Tony and Mary Therese (Tippy). To find work during the depression, the family relocated to Indianapolis when Barb was three years old. They settled in Little Flower Parish where additional relatives soon joined them.

While attending Little Flower Grade School, Barb first met the Sisters of St. Francis. After two years of high school at St. Agnes Academy, Barb missed the friendly, joyous spirit of the Franciscans and transferred to St. Mary Academy until graduation. Barb entered our community on September 8, 1951, and professed her final vows on August 12, 1957. A lover of education and a life-long learner, Barb earned a bachelor's degree from Marian College (now University) and



two master's degrees from the University of Dayton and Loyola College in Baltimore, MD. In addition, Barb took countless classes

and workshops in a variety of topics. Everything she learned broadened her horizons, allowed her to grow personally and spiritually, enhanced her ministry and increased her gratitude to the Loving Creator of All.

On her 50th Jubilee, Barb described her variety of ministries, "the years have brought so many opportunities and blessings---the delight of teaching first and second graders, the challenge of junior high and principalship, followed by the privilege of ministering in parishes, accompanying adults in their faith journey and preparing couples for marriage. Then came the rich experience of sharing with the Navajo people in New Mexico in a mutual spiritual journey.... Now, as a chaplain in a long term acute care hospital, I continue to be enriched as I journey with those so close to God as they live the mystery of suffering....What a marvelous life! What an amazing God!"

Barb loved her family and took every possible opportunity to spend time with them. The annual Indianapolis 500 parties were special as were many other gatherings and celebrations. Barb enjoyed traveling and loved nature. She looked forward to an almost annual retreat with her friend, Joanita, in Maggie Valley, North Carolina, where the natural beauty of the mountains, streams, plants and animal life of the Smokey Mountains nourished body, mind and spirit.

Resting in God...

Sister Monica Zore

Nov. 1, 1948 - Dec. 10, 2024



On the morning of December 10, when the world commemorates the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, our Sister Monica Zore quietly and at peace slipped into the arms of her loving Creator. What an appropriate reminder of Monica's deep connection to those in our society that live on the margins. Monica Ann Zore was born in Indianapolis on November 1, 1948. She was the daughter of Victor and Dorothea Rosner Zore, who preceded her in death along with her brother Vic Zore. It was at Holy Trinity parish in Indianapolis where she became very acquainted with the sisters from Oldenburg. Her parents were among the regular group that transported the sisters to and from Oldenburg for summer retreats. As S. Monica noted in an article in a community publication, "I could recite the Mysteries of the Rosary before I could skip. I made many trips which watered the seed of my vocation."

While at St. Mary Academy, Monica learned more deeply what these sisters were all about. Her parents often joked that she should just get a room there as Monica was often volunteering with the sisters and eager to help in any way she could. Monica noted that she "may have been the only one surprised when S. Geraldine Marie suggested that God might be calling."

Monica entered the Sisters of St. Francis right after high school, but only stayed for ten months the first time around. "I had some growing to do." It was in the Franciscan climate at Marian College that Monica's vocation continued to grow. It was there that she discovered her need for community to continue her faith journey. "When I entered the community the second time, I was 21, and I knew Jesus in a personal relationship. I knew I needed community to strengthen and develop my relationship with God."

S. Monica taught at Marian University for 39 years. She started at Marian as an instructor of Math in 1983, was promoted to Assistant Professor in 1986, and tenured in 1990. She retired in 2022. In 2012, Monica was honored with Marian University's Franciscan Values Award, a recognition that spoke to the depth of her commitment to Marian University's mission of excellence in learning and to the Gospel values Marian strives to embody. As President Elsener went on to say, "Beyond her teaching, S. Monica very clearly honored the dignity of every individual she encountered. She was always there to offer her time, wisdom, and support. Her spirit of service was also deeply rooted in her Franciscan commitment to responsible stewardship, as she thoughtfully helped her students hone their God-given talents. She was a pillar of strength and support for all who knew her."

Monica's mastery of mathematics and her passion for justice mingled together to knit a woman confident to ask the important questions. Without a doubt Monica resembled someone whose very essence recognized the dignity of each person she met, whether working as a tutor at the Indiana Women's Prison or as a volunteer at St. Mary's Child Center, a Professor at Marian University or within her very own Franciscan community.

Resting in God...

Sister Lynne Matteson

May 29, 1943 - March 6, 2025



Just before 1:00 PM on Thursday, March 6th, Sister Lynne Matteson completed her Lenten journey and was embraced by our God of the Paschal Mystery for all eternity. We can only imagine the joy that filled Lynne's entire being as she beheld the glory of God with her own eyes and was welcomed to her new home by family members and friends. Polly Lynne Matteson was born in Syracuse, New York on May 29, 1943. Eight days later she was adopted by Austin and Betty Matteson and grew up as an only child. The family moved frequently as her father was a salesman, but often landed back in Rome, NY, her mother's hometown.

By her teen years, the family had relocated to Cincinnati, which Lynne considered her hometown. In 1961, in her first semester as a Freshman at the University of Cincinnati, Lynne joined the Church at St. George's. Lynne earned her bachelor's degree in education at UC in 1965 with an emphasis in history. Four years later, she received her master's from IU. "I had always loved working with children - babysitting, Scouting, camp work, and teaching or counseling. I never remember seriously wanting to do anything else. But even though I loved working with kids year-round, there was an emptiness which was not filled. I finally decided to apply for a child through single adoption (new in Ohio)." In 1975, Lynne adopted Verna Fay Matteson, a lovely nine-year old girl. Lynne was often heard to say that adopting Verna was one of the two best things she ever did in life, the other was entering our Franciscan Community in 1987! "Verna helped me connect to the future, to life beyond today. She helped me refocus on God, on meaning for life, and to reconnect with my Church...what a gift we have been to each other." In 1986, Lynne began asking God for a new direction. Lynne found she was "thirsting for spiritual growth, for connection in a personal way with my Creator, and in a more total living experience which involved spiritual interchange. God knew I was looking for religious community, but I did not!"

Although initially enthralled as an Associate, Lynne realized this wasn't enough and after a period of self-doubt about her call, she entered the community as a postulant in September 1987, "with great enthusiasm and much zest - which is still the way I enter most situations."

Lynne was a much-loved teacher and counselor in both public and private schools for thirty-seven years. For twelve years she taught at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis and was their 2002 Teacher of the Year. Even after retiring, she continued to minister there for another ten years as the secretary for the principal.

We are delighted Lynne is now reunited with her parents, and some very good sister friends: S. Francis Assisi, who helped Lynne stay grounded during her novitiate years, S. Dotty Jean Nellis, a fellow history buff and friend, and S. Monica Zore, who offered to pray for Lynne during a time when she was asking God for a new direction. Lynne also leaves many friends here who will miss her quick wit, constant encouragement, and love in the face of physical challenges over these last few years.

Memorialize a Sister

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:

RETIREMENT FUND

To help care for our senior Sisters who are 70 and over

LITTLE PORTION FUND

To assist with the Sisters' mission activities

SPIRITUALITY CENTERS

To support the Oldenburg Franciscan Center and the Nia Kuumba Center in MO

ASSOCIATE RELATIONSHIP

To support the Associate Relationship Program of the Sisters

UNRESTRICTED

To help the Sisters where funds are needed most

Whichever fund you might support, your donation will benefit the Sisters in their ministry of serving God. You may donate using the enclosed envelope. Donations may also be given online by visiting www.oldenburgfranciscans.org/donate-online.html.

Let's Hear From You...

As a Franciscan Community, we are committed to Care of Creation, the gift given by God. One way we can express our care is by seeking your input regarding your preferred mode of communication. Please take a moment to review the following:

_____ I am receiving duplicate copies of *Celebrate*. Enclosed is the address label that contains the mailing address to be removed.

_____ Please remove my name from the mailing list. I no longer wish to receive *Celebrate*.

_____ I have enclosed a donation of \$5.00. Please send a copy of *Celebrate* to the following person:

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

_____ Please add my name to your e-list so I can receive communications electronically. In addition, remove my address from your hard copy list. My email address is: _____

You may also make changes to the way you receive our communications by emailing grace.vanderbur@oldenburgfranciscans.org or mail to: Development Office, Sisters of St. Francis, P.O. Box 100, Oldenburg, IN 47036

cut along dotted line

Epiphany Star Society

The Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg are grateful to members of our Epiphany Star Society who have chosen to ensure a strong future for our Franciscan mission and continued loving care for our retired and infirm Sisters, by including contributions to the Sisters in their estate plans.

"What I learned from the Sisters as a child has shaped me into who I am today, and because of that I have included the Sisters in my estate plans" - Anonymous donor

The Epiphany Star reflects the founding of the congregation by Mother Theresa Hackelmeier on the feast of the Epiphany in 1851. We invite you to prayerfully consider including the Sisters in your estate plans. For further information about the Epiphany Star Society, please contact Jen Waning at 812-933-6554 or email jen.waning@oldenburgfranciscans.org.



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The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both
humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen