

September 24, 2019

Dear Associates and Sisters,

On September 21, 2019, in the quiet of the early morning, Associate Dorothy Spalding was called home to God. She was born on October 23, 1931 to Herman and Helen (Thompson) Hagerty. She married Charles (Eddie) Spalding in 1950 and was married for 64 years. Dorothy and Eddie had five children: Judy, Kathy, Debbie, Fred, and Vicky (deceased).



Dottie became an Associate on April 9, 2000. She credited Sr. Alice Ann Deardorff and her cousin Sr. Timothy Kavanaugh for leading her deeper into her faith and to the Oldenburg Franciscans. Dottie was a life-long member of Little Flower Catholic Church where she served as a Eucharistic Minister and coordinator for scheduling the volunteers who cleaned the Church. She was also an active member of the Ladies Club, Legion of Mary, Bible Study, RCIA, started the Shepherds of Christ prayer group, and volunteered at the local nursing home. Dorothy also took time to write to prisoners in federal prison trying to let them know how much God loved them, and to send them spiritual books.

In 2003 Dorothy shared in a reflection, **“Since becoming an Associate I have met several outstanding people. My eyes have been opened to recognizing the Franciscan spirit. In fact I think maybe I have been Franciscan all my life, just never knew what to call it before.”** Later on in the Associate Relationship Dorothy said, **“I want to let everyone know what a blessing it is to be part of the Franciscan Spirituality. The happiness I have in my heart I want to share with others.”**

Dorothy felt truly blessed to be welcomed into the Franciscan Family. She always felt it was a little piece of heaven here on earth. While her health allowed, she was so very faithful to the Indianapolis Group of Associates. Perhaps one of Dorothy’s greatest gifts was welcoming the stranger at Mass. She was very aware of the new person in the pew especially those who may have been in Church from a different country and were shy about being in the presence of others.

In her spare time, Dorothy enjoyed computer games, working jigsaw puzzles, and when she was physically able, visiting the many Sister and Associate friends she had made in Oldenburg. She felt very blessed with the life she had and enjoyed the time she had strengthening her relationship with God.

Dottie, may you rest peacefully in the loving arms of God...

In Loving Memory,

Jane A. Schaefer