



## SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

PO BOX 100 OLDENBURG, IN 47036

WWW.OLDENBURGFRAUCISCANS.ORG

FACEBOOK: FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF OLDENBURG



S. HELEN SALER, OSF

August 7, 2014

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

***“In my Father’s house there are many dwellings places. I am going to prepare a place for you, so that where I am you also may be.”*** (John 14: 2)

These words became reality for S. Helen Saler as God called her home Monday morning, August 4, 2014. Just the previous day, her family had gathered for their annual family reunion at Oldenburg. Although S. Helen’s journey to God had begun, it gave the family time to say good-bye.

Born February 10, 1929 in Greensburg, Indiana, Helen was seventh in a family of three boys and five girls. Her parents, Charles and Pauline Saler, had a small farm near Enochsburg. In her autobiography, S. Helen recalled that they all looked out for one another. They worked hard but had plenty of time for play as well. Helen said, “At Christmas we never had many gifts and I never knew we were poor until I grew up. I remember taking things to neighbors who were in need. I never felt deprived; we had all we needed of the real important things. I look back on a happy childhood.”

Helen attended elementary school in Enochsburg and New Point High School, along with religious instruction classes at the parish. After high school Helen worked five years in a wire factory in Greensburg. At this time she and two of her sisters pooled their money to buy a new Dodge automobile, which she felt quite thrilled to own. Helen’s next step was learning to drive! Her horizons were broadened with this new-found freedom and excursions beyond Enochsburg.

At age 23, Helen heard God’s call and decided to enter the convent. As an Oldenburg Franciscan, S. Helen ministered in Catholic schools and parishes as teacher, principal and Director of Religious Education while at the same time being seamstress and hairdresser for Sisters with whom she lived. S. Helen recounts, “Teaching was a surprise. I don’t know just what I thought I’d be doing as a Sister. Each mission was special. I learned from each experience. Being an elementary principal was a real challenge. I went in fear and trembling, but later could only say it was really good for me. I learned so much.” S. Helen especially loved the country missions. Later in life, while still teaching full time, S. Helen had the opportunity to hone her hairdressing skills by attending beauty school and becoming a licensed beautician.

St. Leon was S. Helen’s last mission and one she considered an ideal place to appreciate the quiet of nature. As S. Helen’s good friend, S. Rosemary Stewart, said many years ago of S. Helen, “You can take the girl out of the country but you can’t take the country out of the girl. Helen could be found with spade in hand at the first signs of spring ready to turn up the soil and plant something because it’s fun to watch things grow.” It was here that they both adopted Mickey, their dog, who later became a frequent visitor to the Sisters in St. Clare Hall.

Gracious, accepting, compassionate, caring, unassuming, generous, prayerful, and humble are just a few words that come to mind in describing S. Helen Saler. One of our nurses said it was as though an “angel” came walking down the hall when S. Helen came to visit in our health care facility. She had a calm, quiet, peaceful way of spending time with the Sisters. In her, one could sense the presence of God. S. Helen lived simply, loved dearly, spoke kindly and prayed continually. Whether it be cleaning the sanctuary floor in chapel, helping a Sister in need, visiting with family, or praying in community, S. Helen was a beacon of love and goodness.

Family members referred to S. Helen as the “glue” that kept their family together by planning the family reunion, keeping up on phone numbers and addresses and always being genuinely interested in their lives and well-being.

We extend our sympathy and love to S. Helen’s siblings, Mary Kipp, Bill Saler, Charlotte Redelman and their spouses, as well as her many nieces and nephews. May S. Helen now enjoy eternal happiness with her parents, family and friends who have gone before her.

Sympathy is also extended to classmates, Sisters Rose Marie McCann, Mary Louise Werner, Ruth Mary Forthofer, Marilynn Hofer, Edna Martini, Rosaire Bishop, Margaretta Black, Ruthann Boyle, Barbara Hileman, Norma Rocklage, Dolores Meyer, Francesca Thompson and Carmela Whitton.

Thank you, Helen, for being such a beautiful instrument of God’s love and care for all. We will miss you. May you now join the Communion of Saints and continue to pray for us.

In gratitude, love and prayer,



S. Joanita Koors, OSF  
*for the Council*

S. HELEN SALER, OSF, (FORMERLY S. DEVOTA)

Birth: February 10, 1929

Entrance into Religious Life: February 2, 1952

Entrance into Eternal Life: August 4, 2014

#### MISSIONS AT WHICH S. HELEN SERVED:

1953-1955	St. Mark, Indianapolis, IN	1972-1981	St. Peter, Chillicothe, OH
1955-1959	Little Flower, Indianapolis, IN	1981-1982	St. Catherine, St. Louis, MO
1959-1962	Our Lady of Mercy, Dayton, OH	1982-1986	St. Joseph, St. Leon, IN
1962-1964	St. Leo, Cincinnati, OH	1986-1995	St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg, IN
1964-1965	St. Peter, Hamilton, OH	1995-2000	St. Joseph, St. Leon, IN
1965-1970	St. Michael, Indianapolis, IN	2000-2014	Motherhouse, Oldenburg, IN
1970-1972	St. Gabriel, Connersville, 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)*