

February 23, 2020



Dear Associates and Sisters,

Joan Yelton passed away on Sunday, February 9, 2020. Born in Northern Kentucky into a family that included two sets of twins, Joan had a twin sister and five other siblings. She worked in the insurance field for 11 years when she felt called to a vocation in social work. She was very committed to obtaining her masters degree and commuted to the University of Louisville daily.

She was a long time volunteer at Tender Mercies and believed that she was prayerfully promoting the Franciscan values each day through her ministry. She was always taking the time to help others whenever she could and gave many hours of her time counseling inmates and reading the Sunday newspaper to them.

Joan made her Associate commitment in 1986 and looked forward to sharing in the ministry of the Community and joining them in Franciscan prayer. She hosted Associate gatherings at her home and was very involved with the Community programs at Oldenburg.

Her relationship with her contact person, Sister Norma Rocklage helped her grow in her spiritual journey and gave her the support to continue to share her gifts with the sisters and other Associates. Norma was aware that Joan's faith was constant even in the midst of many challenges in her life. Joan loved her family and friends unconditionally and was a generous and giving person even during the times when she wasn't feeling well herself.

Joan's caring and gentle personality was apparent to everyone. Joan was drawn to animals. Her close friend and housemate, Associate Marsha Rowley had a new kitten and she remarked that Kemba followed Joan around liked to sleep on her pillow. She now looks out the window, waiting for Joan to come home. Their home has many windows that provide peaceful views of nature, including deer and other animals that are drawn to the trees and lake. She said it is the, "Franciscan House" where they could sit and enjoy the beauty of creation. Marsha felt that their home was a good place for Joan to make a restful repose after taking care of so many forlorn and lost people. Joan, may you now receive eternal rest and after so many years of generous giving, receive the greatest gift yourself. Peaceful eternity in God's loving arms.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Meyer