

**November 22, 2021**

Dear Associates and Sisters,

On Tuesday, November 16, 2021 while in the comfort of her home, Associate, Priscilla "Pat" Charlotte Lerche slipped into the loving arms of God. Pat was born September 27, 1931 in Chicago, IL the daughter of the late Peter Clarence and Thursa Mami (Slingo) Huberty.

Pat is survived by her children, Theresa Colleen (Daniel) Hiatt, Michael Peter (Lisa) Lerche and John Gerard Lerche, 9 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. She was a dear friend and faithful companion to the Kokomo Associate Group especially her dear friend, Joan Klemko.

Pat became an Associate in March of 1994 with the guidance of Sr. Helen Eckrich (deceased). In signing her commitment statement, Pat wished to, "follow Jesus Christ through the examples of St. Francis and St. Clare." Pat loved God and loved her family, quickly grasping onto the Franciscan value of humble servant. Excited to be a minister to God's people, Pat completed CPE training in 1995 and helped with the chaplaincy program at Howard Community Hospital in Kokomo. She also served others in her local parish, St. Joan of Arc, Kokomo as Director of the Minister of Care program, Eucharistic Minister and assistant to those who were homebound, hospitalized, or in nursing homes, in addition to helping with, CRHP (Christ Renews His Parish). Pat was instrumental in starting the Ministry of Care Bus, which brought homebound, elderly, and handicapped citizens to Saturday evening mass. Along with these ministries, Pat was instrumental in starting both the Sunshine Club, a social club for those who were 50 years of age and older who gathered weekly at the parish to enjoy a meal, play cards or games, and or to just visit and the Chapel gift shop which was adorned in a variety of Religious Items. Pat was an others centered woman as evidenced in her ministry choices.

Early in her Associate relationship, Pat enjoyed visits to Oldenburg where she could participate in activities and visit with the Sisters in Saint Clare Hall. She also enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the VIS program at the Motherhouse (Very Important Sister).

Pat was grateful to the Sisters and Associates for the friendships made and the relationship she had with each. She prayed for the Sisters who had gone before her, as she felt they gave her spiritual assistance in life. She stated, "I feel enriched by the association of each Sister I come into contact with. Their special love of our Lord Jesus, enriches me with every visit, card, or call." Pat was also a Secular Franciscan of the Lady Clare Fraternity.

Pat was preceded in death by her husband Henry William "Hank" Lerche Jr.; sons, Henry William Lerche III, and Patrick Joseph Lerche; grandchildren Michael Peter Lerche and Johnathan Carl Lerche in addition to six siblings.

Pat, as you rest in the loving arms of God, may your Franciscan heart be welcomed by those who have gone before you, especially Hank and Saints Francis and Clare, whose lives you honored in word and deed. Rest in peace Pat!

Jane Schaefer

