

January 30, 2026

Dear Sisters and Associates,

On Saturday, January 24, 2026, Associate, Patty Nosko, journeyed home to God. Born to John and Leora Nosko, Patty was the third of six children. She was surrounded by brothers: William, John, Ronald, David, and Michael who died on the day of his birth.

Patricia Yvonne Nosko, was born into St. Anthony Parish (Evansville, IN) where the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, lived and taught. She shared in a reflection she wrote for *Soaring Thoughts*, “I remember as if it were yesterday, when a postulant of the Congregation was addressing my third grade class about the life of a Franciscan Sister.”

Whomever that postulant was, her message spoke to Patty’s heart and became the seed that eventually sprouted into a life of Franciscanism. Patty entered the Oldenburg Franciscans, and stayed for 21 years (1967-1988) crediting Sr. Stella Gampfer and Sr. Hortense Fougerousse as being influential in directing and advising her to seek entrance into the Community. Sr. Ann Vonder Meulen, friend of Patty’s, shared, “When the Community would have family visits on Sundays, Patty would often join our family and eventually became really good friends with my mom Helen, who was also an Oldenburg Franciscan Associate.”

Patty did not have the easiest of childhoods and with the help and direction of the Community sought outside assistance to help her heal the pains and hurts of her childhood. Upon the completion of her work with HOA (The House of Affirmation) Patty, decided to become an Oldenburg Franciscan, Associate. With the companionship of Sisters, Veronica Frederick and Barb James, Patty signed her Associate Commitment on April 22, 2007. She then made her Commitment Permanent on August, 21, 2022 with her friend, Sr. Delouise Menges serving as her companion.

Patty was a well educated woman with a variety of interests. She earned a MA/English from Xavier University, her BA/English from Marian College (now University), a BSN, from Bellarmine University, and her High School Degree from Rex Mundi. With a hunger to serve others, Patty put her degrees to good use. She served as a RN Nurse, teacher, writer, typist, driver, and wrote letters/cards for elderly sisters especially during the Holidays. Patty had a real love for literature, and had a natural feel for all that it encompassed. When she was physically able, Patty enjoyed gardening and mowing the lawn. She also enjoyed the many creatures that visited her yard including raccoons and opossums, much to the consternation of her next door neighbors. Throughout her life, Patty’s motto was, “just ask, and I will try.” Perhaps Patty’s greatest gift was her sense of humor. You had to listen closely when Patty talked because she would throw in some one-liners to make you laugh but more importantly, to see if you were listening.

Sr. Olga Wittekind walked with Patty as her spiritual director and offers the following insights; “Patty was so aware of God’s presence. She attended the OFC Contemplation Prayer Group up until her illness. Patty was always open to share how God was inspiring her through the books she read, the videos she watched, and through her life of prayer, which led to her mission of helping the poor. She loved her Franciscan family!” Patty’s spiritual life led her to reading books by Richard Rohr and anything she could find on the mystics.

Patty felt the Franciscan value that most resonated with her was, “simplicity.” She shared in one of her writings, “Simplicity, contains the essence of the vowed life. A simple life allows the promise of poverty, chastity, and obedience to bloom and grow. Simplicity, frees the Spirit.” It would be remiss, if we did not mention Patty’s generosity. She was very kind when it came to sharing what she had with others, especially



her classmates and the poor. Patty's classmates meant the world to her, and whenever she made a visit to Oldenburg she would arrange to eat dinner with the classmates that were available.

Patty will be greatly missed by her neighbors and dear friends Bob & Jodi Burton who often referred to Patty as "Aunt Pat", and many Sister friends and Associates whom she has remained in contact with over the years.

May Patty rest peacefully in the loving arms of God,

Jane Schaefer