



SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

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Sister Jan Kroeger

December 17, 2025

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

Just before the community joined together to celebrate the second Sunday of Advent, December 7, 2025, around 9:10 a.m. our Sister Jan Kroeger (aka Margaret Mary or Aunt Peggy) took the hands of Our Lady and danced her way through the doors of heaven. In the days before her passing Jan would often call out the name of Mary. While it wasn't clear who she was referring to, many of us are convinced she wanted to be in Mary's presence to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception which we celebrated this year on December 8th. Many of us can hear her whisper, as she embraced Our Lady, "Peace on your body!" We are grateful that Jan now knows the "peace" that she shared with so many of us throughout the years.

S. Jan (Margaret Mary) was born on October 6, 1937, to Edward and Dorothy Elizabeth (Taylor) Kroeger. She was the eldest of the three siblings. For Jan, family was a priority and she was always present to her brothers and their families. After both of her brothers passed away, Jan became the glue for the family in so many ways for her nephews and their families. Family events would be shared with the Sisters at Oldenburg and beyond. Visits to Oldenburg by her nephew Bryan and his daughter, Meghan, were highlights, particularly this past couple of years. Often after a visit from Bryan, Jan would proudly announce that "my favorite human" was here today.

In addition to family, Jan held close to her heart her Oldenburg Franciscan Community. She was always inviting Sisters to join her in various activities. You could usually find Jan at the table in the dining room that was noticeably having the most fun. In an article reflecting Jan's return to the Burg she noted, "Living at the Motherhouse has allowed me the opportunity to really know more of my Sisters. . . I am in awe of the places our Sisters have gone, the courage they had, the work that they have accomplished, and the gifts and talents they have shared." Jan valued these opportunities and brought her out-of-the-box ideas. While at the Motherhouse Jan helped initiate several activities that continue to this day – St. Boniface Celebration, the Margaret Club (yes – you had to have the name Margaret to join), and Clare's Café to name just a few.

When asked about her favorite ministry, Jan identified three. Working with dependent and neglected children at St. Joseph Orphanage, serving as Guidance Counselor at Oldenburg Academy, and working with the Sisters in Assisted Living at Mount St. Joseph. In a letter from the Director of Treatment at St. Joseph's Orphanage that was in her file, Jan was described as, "Sister Jan is neither flashy nor attention seeking. In the true spirit of St. Francis, she quietly, conscientiously, and thoroughly goes about her work of relating to and serving the children and staff of the facility. Her quiet and joyful attitude provides both a spirit of ease and cooperation with all the other staff she works with. I find her work, her spirit and her presence a constant source for rejoicing." While this was written back in 1980, these same traits followed Jan throughout her life.

Sister Marge Kloos, SC wrote after learning of Jan's passing, "I am sure that Jan Kroeger is enjoying a well-deserved rendezvous with God in eternity. She was all grace for us Charities—a gentle, generous companion to the community. I will always be grateful to her for the way she helped me support several of my good friends who died at Mother Margaret Hall. She was in every way a pastoral light."

Jan's social life here at the 'Burg was noticeable, often meeting graduates of Oldenburg Academy for lunch or coffee, connecting with Sisters from Mount St. Joseph or co-workers who she connected with through her various ministries. Jan was popular even among the more recent classes at the Academy. She didn't know a stranger, but even more poignantly, people felt seen and accepted by Jan. Her friendship was known by many.

We offer condolences to all those whose lives were blessed to have known our Sister Jan, particularly her nephews Bryan and Shawn and their families and her classmates Jackie McCracken, Diane Mersch, and Elaine Merkel, Jan's spirit of adventure, welcome, and joy will be missed by her Oldenburg Sisters, her many students, friends, and people she touched over the years. We are truly grateful to our nursing staff who provided such attentive care and who too will miss her spirit as well as the Transitus Sisters and others who accompanied Jan during her last days on earth. May the many memories we hold continue to bring a smile to our hearts for a lifetime! Thank you Jan – "peace on your body!"

In Loving memory,



S. Robbie Pentecost for the Leadership Team

SISTER JAN (Margaret Mary) KROEGER

Birth: October 6, 1937

Entered Religious Life: September 8, 1963

Entered Eternal Life: December 7, 2025

MISSIONS AT WHICH SISTER JAN SERVED

1966-1967 St. Andrew, Richmond IN	1991-1992 Adult Ed Teacher, Cincinnati OH
1967-1971 St. Anthony, Dayton OH	1992-1994 Covington Latin Sch., Covington KY
1971-1972 St. Joseph, Evansville IN	1994-1996 McNicholas HS, Cincinnati OH
Sacred Heart, Fairfield OH	1996-2002 OA, Oldenburg IN
1972-1975 St. James, Cincinnati OH	2002-2014 Mother Margaret Hall,
1975-1982 St. Joseph Orphanage, Cincinnati OH	Mount St. Joe, OH
1982-1983 St. Joseph Home for Boys, St. Louis MO	2014-2025 Motherhouse, Oldenburg IN
1983-1991 ICA (OA) Academy, Oldenburg 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.

Memorial Donations in Sister's memory may be given online at www.OldenburgFranciscans.org