



SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

PO BOX 100 OLDENBURG, IN 47036
WWW.OLDENBURGFRAUCISCANS.ORG



November 5, 2021

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

Amid the brilliance of sunshine and blue sky on this autumn afternoon, our beloved Sister Rose Marie McCann breathed her last and, at 2 PM, slipped into the loving arms of God. S. Rachel West had been her companion in her final moments, and S. Barb Hileman was just arriving to pray at her bedside.

S. ROSE MARIE MCCANN, OSF

Irene Rose McCann was born in Dover, Indiana on January 26, 1934, the third child of Leroy and Loretta Vogelsang McCann. Growing up with eight other siblings gave Irene the opportunity to develop some practical homemaking skills which she would use all her life. When her family moved into their grandfather's larger house, there was an acre of farmland to put to good use. Irene assisted her mother in planting the family garden and, at age eight, learned to cook for the family.

Irene's elementary education took place at St. John the Baptist School in Dover—the same school her father had attended. After two years in a public high school, her mother arranged for Irene to transfer to Immaculate Conception Academy (now Oldenburg Academy). Her upperclassman days were rich and fulfilling. In an interview about her new-found life at the Academy, Irene explained, "The most important thing at ICA is the better opportunity in obtaining a good education for later life. . . . Here at ICA I have taken six subjects and enjoyed every one." Of the 36 students in Irene's graduating class, 18 of them entered religious life after high school. Irene was accepted into the Oldenburg Franciscan Community and became S. Rose Marie. Noting this change, Irene stated, "I was born into a wonderful family of 11. Then, at age 17, I was born into a loving family of approximately 800 women religious!"

As a novice, Rose Marie was selected to prepare meals for priests who visited the Convent for special events. Her cooking skills were further utilized when she temporarily replaced S. Conradine Will, the Motherhouse cook who was taking a much-needed two-week vacation. Then, together with her friend S. Mel Hoffman, Rose Marie volunteered her services in the Convent Infirmary for two years.

After a brief substitute teaching experience at Holy Trinity School in Indianapolis, Rose Marie's first full mission assignment brought her to St. Vincent de Paul parish in Cincinnati. While teaching both first and second grades, she served as sacristan, prepared the meals for the Sisters, and baked bread every week. Her teaching career continued at ten additional schools in rural, inner city and urban Indiana and Ohio communities and spanned 34 years, where she focused on teaching primary grade students and specialized in reading education.

When she felt it was time to seek another ministry, Rose Marie took nursing classes and became a Qualified Medical Assistant. With this new license, she was employed by Marquette Manor Health Care Center, Indianapolis in 1987 to distribute medications. For two years of that time, she provided companionship to a firefighter's elderly mother. Rose Marie's work at Marquette Manor eventually expanded to include service as the receptionist, where she could warmly greet visitors. "I love working with senior citizens," Rose Marie wrote, "listening to their wisdom and life stories. They are a gift." Her ministry at Marquette Manor did not come to an end until 2009.

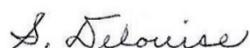
Still eager to take on another ministry, Rose Marie asked to be the cook for the Sisters living at Marian University. Her specialty dessert was homemade lemon meringue pie—a culinary treat. She remained with the Marian Sisters until her retirement to the Motherhouse in 2011.

Rose Marie treasured the opportunities to stay connected with family and friends. Family gatherings and card games were anticipated delights to her. She was known to send over 100 Christmas cards at the holiday season. A group of former first grade students—her “charges” from 60 years ago—regularly met with Rose Marie, sharing priceless memories of their early days together. These encounters brought new life to Rose Marie in her retirement days.

We extend our sympathy to Rose Marie’s siblings: Russell, Tom, Ann, Patricia, and Linda; her nieces and nephews; her faithful former students whose visits have enlivened her; beloved friends, classmates, and the caring nursing and pastoral staff in St. Clare Hall. The following words from writer Ed Hayes seem a fitting message of faith and consolation from Rose Marie herself:

*“Fear not nor grieve my departure,
you whom I have loved so much,
for my roots and yours
are forever intertwined.”*

In loving memory,



S. Delouise Menges
for the General Council

SISTER ROSE MARIE (Irene) MCCANN

Birth: January 26, 1934

Entered Religious Life: September 8, 1951

Entered Eternal Life: November 5, 2021

MISSIONS AT WHICH S. ROSE MARIE SERVED:

| | | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| 1953-1954 | Holy Trinity, Indianapolis IN | 1982-1984 | St. Francis Seraph, Cincinnati OH |
| 1954-1959 | St. Vincent de Paul, Cincinnati OH | 1984-1987 | St. Monica, Indianapolis IN |
| 1959-1963 | St. Andrew, Richmond IN | 1987-1994 | Marquette Manor, Indianapolis IN |
| 1963-1965 | St. Bernard, Taylor Creek OH | 1995-1996 | Sabbatical, Little Falls MN |
| 1965-1966 | St. Peter, Chillicothe OH | 1997-2002 | Marquette Manor, Indianapolis IN |
| 1966-1969 | St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg IN | 2002-2003 | Sabbatical |
| 1969-1970 | St. Bernadette, Indianapolis IN | 2003-2009 | Marquette Manor, Indianapolis IN |
| 1970-1971 | St. Joseph, Shelbyville IN | 2009-2011 | Convent, Marian College, Indpls. IN |
| 1971-1980 | St. Rita, Indianapolis IN | 2011-2014 | Motherhouse Ministry, Oldenburg IN |
| 1980-1982 | St. Joseph, Cincinnati OH | 2011-2021 | Retirement, 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