



SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

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



September 12, 2022

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

S. THERESE TACKETT, OSF

During this beautiful Season of Creation, the soul of S. Therese Tackett could no longer be contained. In the early hours of this morning at 2:10 AM as S. Michelle Corliss sat by her bedside, our beloved Therese released that spirit into the hands of our Gracious God and made her peaceful journey home.

Therese Ann Tackett was born in Bluefield, West Virginia to Shady and Nannie Tackett on October 22, 1931. She followed an array of siblings: older brothers James and Robert, twins Dorothy and Donald, Joseph and Joan; but she had the joy of a younger sister, Kathryn, as well. The Tackett family lived on a three-acre farm above the city, and all members were involved in caring for the chickens and cows, as well as the vegetables and fruit. Therese remembered especially the half-acre of cultivated black raspberries which the family farm produced. Their efforts provided not just food for the family, but also for the Sisters at the parish school and any needy family in the area.

Therese attended the parish elementary school—Sacred Heart – for grades one through nine, and then expressed a desire to enter a Dominican community in Wisconsin. “Mother was concerned about my going to a community so young; therefore, I attended Beaver High School for my sophomore year and (with Mother’s encouragement) I became an aspirant at the Immaculate Conception Academy (now Oldenburg Academy) for my junior year,” Therese recalled. “At the end of that year on September 8, 1948, I entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg, Indiana, where my two first cousins, Sisters Therese Ann Campbell and Suzanne Campbell were members.” There, she became known as S. Mary Kenneth.

For her first 28 years of active ministry, Therese served in elementary schools in Indiana, Ohio, and Missouri as both teacher and principal. Her special interest was ministry to the poor, particularly in the African-American community. This role brought her three separate times to St. Joseph School in Cincinnati, where she served as teacher/principal.

An internship opportunity for high school retreat work sent Therese to Marathon, Wisconsin for a year. There, she lived with a mixed community of Capuchins, lay persons, and other Sisters. For Therese, this experience proved to be a turning point in her life. She went on to minister as guidance counselor at Immaculate Conception Academy, Oldenburg, where she also worked with Batesville High School and St. Louis Church in Batesville to provide education programs for drug and alcohol awareness.

In 1983, Therese became the Director of Youth Ministry for the diocese of Evansville. “During my three years there,” Therese recounted, “I worked with youth directors and youth to provide retreats and youth days for the diocese. I also provided educational programs for adults and youth on drugs and alcohol, adolescent faith development and suicide.”

Therese's next ministry brought her to the Motherhouse, where she served as co-director of Personnel Services and Director of Life Development. "During these years," she explained, "I have

been privileged to work with sisters in both professional and spiritual growth." She also was pleased to use her creativity to provide workshops and retreats, offering new and fresh ways to meet the challenges of religious life in more recent times.

Deeply embedded in Therese's spirituality was a love of nature, cultivated from her upbringing in Bluefield. When the opportunity arose to minister in Appalachia, Therese embraced it as she became the Director of Wallins Fellowship Center at Wallins Creek, Kentucky. Therese commented, "I wanted to work in the mountains. I wanted to get back to my roots." The small mining town, with its naturally beautiful surroundings, allowed Therese to provide services to the poor—services not provided by the county as she directed community recreation and education services there. Similar ministries took Therese to other small Kentucky communities for the next several years.

In 2003, Therese returned to Evansville to become the Kitchen Coordinator for Kids' Café, sponsored by Congregations Acting for Justice and Empowerment (CAJE). "My primary role was to plan and prepare nutritious meals for the children attending," Therese explained. She described her ministry there as "one of the most challenging and also the most rewarding ministries I have become involved with." From there, her ministry to the underserved carried her to the Lower Price Hill Community School in Cincinnati, serving as the lead GED teacher and Adult Basic Education instructor. The school's Board Chair, Jeff Dey, noted that "her personality, sense of humor, and dedication to our work made her the ideal lead GED teacher" as she provided "coaching and gentle pushing as well as instruction", individual goal-setting and job referrals.

Returning to Kentucky, Therese took on the education of inmates at the Rockcastle County Detention Center in Mt. Vernon, where incarcerated women were offered the chance to obtain their GED. Through Therese's educational services, inmates were challenged to go one step farther—securing a Kentucky Employability Certificate. As a result, those leaving the prison were better able to re-enter the community and workforce as contributing members.

Therese returned to the Motherhouse in 2010, where she offered volunteer ministry in Batesville. An unfortunate accident caused the loss of her left leg in 2011, but it did not stop Therese from being engaged in many things. Her interest in jigsaw puzzles opened up a new ministry-hobby as she completed puzzles and prepared their artistry for sale. The variety and beauty of these pieces have been appreciated by all who viewed and purchased them.

Therese's file holds numerous letters and documents of commendation for her ministry to the poor and marginalized, the work that she loved best. We thank God for sharing Therese with us and for setting her as an example of the very heart of God. Our sympathy is extended to her sister Kay and other family members, her classmates and Sister-companions, and the nursing and pastoral care staff who have accompanied Therese on her journey during these last years.

Now, in the presence of the Creator of all nature, may Therese bloom even more beautifully!

In gratitude for a generous life of service,

Sister Delouise Menges, OSF

S. Delouise Menges

For the General Council

SISTER THERESE TACKETT (formerly S. Mary Kenneth), OSF

Birth: 10-22 1931
Entered Religious Life: 09-08-1948
Entered Eternal Life: 09-12-2022

MISSIONS AT WHICH S. THERESE SERVED:

1951-1954	St. Francis de Sales	Indianapolis, IN
1954-1956	St. Peter	Hamilton, OH
1956-1959	Holy Name	Beech Grove, IN
1959-1961	St. Bonaventure	Cincinnati, OH
1961-1963	St. Henry	St. Louis, MO
1963-1964	St. Vincent	Vincennes, IN
1964-1965	St. Joseph	Kansas City, MO
1965-1967	St. Joseph	Cincinnati, OH
1967-1971	Our Lady of Perpetual Help	Cincinnati, OH
1971-1972	St. Joseph	Cincinnati, OH
1972-1976	St. Catherine	St. Louis, MO
1976-1979	St. Joseph	Cincinnati, OH
1979-1980	St. Anthony Retreat Center	Marathon, WI
1980-1983	Immaculate Conception Academy	Oldenburg, IN
1983-1986	Diocese of Evansville	Evansville, IN
1986-1994	Motherhouse	Oldenburg, IN
1994-2000	Wallins Fellowship Center	Wallins Creek, KY
2000-2002	SE KY Community Access Program	Harlan, KY
2002-2003	Appalachian Science Project	Livingston, KY
2003-2005	St. Joseph Parish	Evansville, IN
2005-2007	Lower Price Hill Community School	Cincinnati, OH
2007-2010	Christian Appalachian Project	Lancaster, KY
2010-2011	Community Volunteer	Batesville, IN
2011-2022	Motherhouse	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