



## SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

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



S. DARIA MITCHELL

November 7, 2024

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

In the early afternoon of November 6, 2024, Sister Daria (formerly S. Alisa) Mitchell quietly and without any fanfare, which was her custom, moved on to her heavenly home joyously welcomed by Francis, Clare, and her deceased family and friends. I am sure Daria's keen sense of observation and way with words will keep all God's angels on their best behavior. She arrived in time to celebrate the Memorial of Blessed John Dun Scotus, a Scottish Priest and Franciscan Friar who was one of her favorite philosopher-theologians. May she now enjoy the fullness of our faith in our loving God.

Daria was born to Kenneth William Mitchell and Daria Helen Bradestege Mitchell on September 22, 1945, in Hamilton, Ohio. Daria was not only the oldest girl, but the oldest child of 6 children – four girls and two boys (Daria, Donna -deceased, Kenneth, Marian, Carolyn, and Thomas). As she described, “our family is large, and it gets very lively when we get together. We are famous for “pitch-ins” for holiday dinners. We all would bring some food to “pitch-in” so that no one is stuck with all the cooking.” Daria looked forward to gathering with family, friends and classmates and so generously shared her love of cooking. Daria loved playing Scrabble and her primary goal for much of her life was to play against her mother and win.

Daria's life was full, with thirty-seven years in teaching and the remainder of her ministry committed to spreading her love of the Franciscan spirit. Daria was taught by the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, from grade one through high school, so it was not surprising that she joined our community. She described it as a “homecoming” and attributed her vocation to the many sisters who taught her along the way.

Daria finished high school at the aspirancy in three and a half years and entered the community February 2, 1963. She earned a bachelor's degree in English from Marian College (now Marian University) in Indianapolis and a master's in education and educational leadership from Miami University in Ohio. She then spent the next thirty-seven years teaching and as a principal in Cincinnati. Sr. Evelyn Lindenmaier recalls her thoughtfulness and attention to recognizing the hard work of the teachers who Daria saw as essential to making a difference in the lives of the students they served. Her philosophy, which she modeled so beautifully, was “if everyone, administrators, staff, teachers, and parents work together, “students will come in, feel loved and will learn.”

Daria not only loved teaching and school administration, but she also excelled at it. When God called her in a new ministry direction sharing our Franciscan spirit and deepening our understanding of the Franciscan path, Daria responded enthusiastically. In August 2001 S. Daria became a graduate student at St. Bonaventure and on to a new adventure. Daria earned a master's degree in Franciscan Studies in May 2003 and then began working for The Franciscan Institute at St. Bonaventure and also for the Franciscan Federation helping with the Franciscan Prayerbook. From 2006-2014 she served as the managing editor for *The CORD*. Michael Cusato, OFM, a professor of Franciscan Studies who served as dean of the former School of Franciscan Studies at St. Bonaventure and as director of The Franciscan Institute noted, “Daria was a hard and diligent worker, loyal to the mission of the Franciscan Institute with a specific focus on ensuring that the spiritual yearnings of Second and Third order religious were being addressed and attended to. She was a solid member of our team, largely self-taught and faithful in carrying out her work – a gift to the Franciscan Family.”

Sister Margaret Carney, OSF, writes of Daria, “For eight hundred years the Franciscan family has transmitted its vision through written texts. While the names of some of the famous writers and editors have come down to us, these are not usually people we remember with gratitude for their work in giving us the tools we need to fill our vocations. Sr. Daria Mitchell served as one such quiet and hard-working editor at the Franciscan Institute

of St. Bonaventure University. Her dedicated work of an unseen and little understood task was part of what allowed countless Franciscans to enjoy the knowledge and wisdom that came from continued education and dedication to our form of life.”

It was during this time that Daria’s family began to see that her mom needed more assistance. Since she was the one in her family who was the freest, Daria moved in with her mom. It was a privileged time for Daria and she so graciously and generously served her mother until her death in 2019.

Daria loved to travel and discover new and interesting places along the way. Mostly places that were off the beaten path. Several sisters were beneficiaries of her love of travel and would join her on various ventures across the country. She was also a huge Harry Potter fan, another pastime she shared with her friends, whether they wanted to or not. Daria prioritized gatherings with friends, especially her classmates and was instrumental in helping organize the annual gatherings of her convent classmates, which continue to this day. Rumor has it that these gatherings were known to end in the wee hours of the next morning. Daria was a deep thinker with a keen sense of observation. People listened when Daria spoke although she certainly did not want to garner attention. As we stood around her bed praying after her last breaths came to an end, it was observed that Daria would not have liked all this attention on her.

We express our deepest sympathy to her sisters and brothers, Kenneth, Marian, Carolyn and Thomas and their spouses, her nieces and nephews, extended family, classmates and friends. We also want to extend our sympathy and gratitude to both the nursing and pastoral care staff who gently and kindly cared for Daria.

In grateful memory,



Sister Robbie Pentecost  
For the Leadership Team

**SISTER DARIA MITCHELL (formerly S. Alisa)**

**Birth: September 22, 1945**

**Entrance into Community: February 2, 1963**

**Entrance into Eternal Life: November 6, 2024**

**MISSIONS AT WHICH S. DARIA SERVED:**

1966-1968	Our Lady of Victory, Cincinnati OH
1968-1971	St. Joseph, Cincinnati OH
1971-1975	St. Francis, Cincinnati OH
1975-1976	St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Cincinnati OH
1976-1978	St. Bernard, Taylor Creek OH
1978-1987	St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Cincinnati OH
1987-1994	St. Dominic School, Cincinnati OH
1994-1997	St. Aloysius, Saylor Park, Cincinnati OH
1997-2001	St. Margaret of York, Warren County OH
2001-2003	St. Bonaventure, St. Bonaventure NY
2003-2014	Franciscan Institute, St. Bonaventure NY
2014-2019	Family Ministry, Fairfield OH
2019-2024	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](http://www.Weigelfh.com)*

**Memorial Donations** in Sister’s memory may be given online at [www.OldenburgFranciscans.org](http://www.OldenburgFranciscans.org)