



SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

PO BOX 100 OLDENBURG, IN 47036
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S. LYNNE MATTESON

March 10, 2025

Dear Sisters, Associates, Co-workers, Family and Friends,
Just before 1:00 PM on Thursday, March 6th, Sister Lynne Matteson completed her Lenten journey and was embraced by our God of the Paschal Mystery for all eternity. We can only imagine the joy that filled Lynne's entire being as she beheld the glory of God with her own eyes and was welcomed to her new home by family members and friends.

Polly Lynne Matteson was born in Syracuse, New York on May 29, 1943. Eight days later she was adopted by Austin and Betty Matteson and grew up as an only child. The family moved frequently as her father was a salesman, but often landed back in Rome, NY, her mother's hometown. The constant for Lynne during those early years was the First Presbyterian Church, where Lynne first met her loving God. Psalm 139 has always touched Lynne "because adopted kids especially need a holding God to get us connected to our rightful people." By her teen years, the family had relocated to Cincinnati, which Lynne considered her hometown. Although Lynne's earlier instruction in the Presbyterian Church included a rather negative attitude toward Catholicism, she began exploring other faiths in her teens. As soon as she was able, in 1961, in her first semester as a Freshman at the University of Cincinnati, Lynne joined the Church at St. George's.

Lynne earned her bachelor's degree in education at UC in 1965 with an emphasis in history. Four years later, she received her master's from IU. In her own words, "I had always loved working with children – babysitting, Scouting, camp work, and teaching or counseling within the school situations. I never remember seriously wanting to do anything else. But even though I loved working with kids year-round, there was an emptiness which was not filled. I finally decided to apply for a child through single adoption (new in Ohio)."

In 1975, Lynne adopted Verna Fay Matteson, a lovely nine-year old girl. Lynne was often heard to say that adopting Verna was one of the two best things she ever did in life, the other was entering our Franciscan Community in 1987! Again, in Lynne's own words, "Verna helped me connect to the future, to life beyond today. She helped me refocus on God, on meaning for life, and to reconnect with my Church...what a gift we have been to each other."

It was when Verna was marrying in 1986 that Lynne began asking God for a new direction. She found wonderful connections within the Sacred Heart Parish in Fairfield, especially after taking part in the Christ Renews His Parish Program. Lynne found she was "thirsting for spiritual growth, for connection in a personal way with my Creator, and in a more total living experience which involved spiritual interchange. God knew I was looking for religious community, but I did not!" S. Monica Zore, teaching at Badin High School, promised to pray for Lynne and later became her contact sister when she became an Associate.

Although initially enthralled as an Associate, Lynne rapidly realized this wasn't enough and after a period of self-doubt about her call, she entered the community as a postulant in September 1987, "with great enthusiasm and much zest – which is still the way I enter most situations."

Lynne was a much-loved teacher and counselor in both public and private schools for thirty-seven years. For twelve years she taught at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis and was their 2002 Teacher of the Year. Even after retiring from teaching at Cathedral, she continued to minister there for another ten years as the secretary for Mr. Dave Worland, the principal “from heaven.”

We are delighted that Lynne is now reunited with her parents, and some very good sister friends: S. Francis Assisi, who helped Lynne stay grounded during her novitiate years, S. Dotty Jean Nellis, a fellow history buff and friend with much laughter to share during those years at Cathedral, and S. Monica Zore, who offered to pray for Lynne during a time when she was asking God for a new direction. Lynne also leaves many friends here who will miss her quick wit, constant encouragement, and love in the face of physical challenges over these last few years.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Lynne’s daughter, Verna, and her grandchildren whom Lynne loved so much. We also offer condolences to her Sisters and Associates in Community, her life-long friends, and to her caregivers in St. Clare Hall who offered kindness and understanding as they cared for Lynne.

In loving memory,

S. Susan Marie Pleiss, OSF

Sister Susan Marie Pleiss
For the Leadership team

SISTER LYNNE (Polly) MATTESON, OSF

Birth: May 29, 1943

Entered Religious Life: September 26, 1987

Entered Eternal Life: March 6, 2025

MISSIONS AT WHICH S. LYNNE MATTESON SERVED:

1989-1990	ICA (OA) Academy, Oldenburg IN
1990-1991	Ritter High School, Indianapolis IN
1991-2002	Cathedral High School, Indianapolis IN
2002-2003	Sabbatical
2003-2003	St. Francis Bariatric Center, Indianapolis IN
2003-2012	Cathedral High School, Indianapolis IN
2012-2025	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