



## SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

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



S. MARIE CAMILLE SCHMALTZ

December 31, 2023

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

As the year of 2023 neared its ending, S. Marie Camille Schmaltz knew that it was time to begin a whole new year, a year of heavenly glory.

LaVerne Dorothy Schmaltz was born to Joseph Schmaltz and Dorothy Frietsch Schmaltz in Cincinnati on February 11, 1928. As the years continued, LaVerne was joined by four younger brothers.

When she grew up, it was no real surprise that LaVerne was attracted to the Oldenburg Franciscan community, as she had three relatives who preceded her there: her great-aunt Sister Lamberta and aunts Olivia (Laverne) Frietsch and Mary Paschal.

As a second-year novice, S. Marie Camille was sent out to St. Louis to teach 56 first-graders. This was a challenging beginning to her educational career, as she felt she had no preparation at all and no help at her mission. In succeeding years, she honed her skills in the teaching ministry, spending 45 years with all grade levels at elementary schools in Indiana, Ohio, and Missouri.

In her autobiographical interview Marie Camille reported that “in 1993 I realized that it was time to stop teaching and try something else. I saw in the newspaper that there were job openings at Lazarus and since I had worked at the Five and Dime before entering, I thought I could try this. I applied and was hired to work in the department with picture frames, art, albums, and art supplies.” Marie Camille’s file is filled with commendations from various customers: “This is the first time I have ever written to the manager at a department store, but I feel the extraordinary assistance and kindness shown by one of your employees deserves recognition. Her name is ‘Camille’. Even on these gloomy winter days Camille always has greeted me with a warm smile and a courteous offer of help. We have been redecorating and I have been in on several occasions to buy frames; her manner is always the same. I do not know if Lazarus has a reward program for duties performed above and beyond, but if so, I would recommend Camille for consideration.”

Another satisfied customer wrote, “Camille has been so helpful and kind as I’ve purchased so much in her department! It doesn’t matter if I spend a dollar or a hundred dollars; she treats me—as she does everyone—with the utmost kindness and respect. You and I are fortunate to have her as a Lazarus employee. She is a GEM!” Another commented that Camille “made me feel cared about and cared for. She used my name twice and gave me a shopping bag with a plastic handle so it wouldn’t cut into my hand.”

Still another shared, “While purchasing two thank you gifts I encountered frustration with almost every salesperson I encountered until I walked into the stationery department. A woman named Camille helped me. What a pleasure! Thank God service still ‘lives’! She was polite, helpful, sweet and attentive. Hold on to her; she’s good!” It was no wonder then that Marie Camille received not one, but sixteen of Lazarus’s “Red Apple” awards in recognition of outstanding customer service!

In 1996 Marie Camille took on still another ministry, this time as a telemarketer at *St. Anthony Messenger*. As she described it, “my job consisted of calling to ask people if they wanted a subscription. If they didn’t, I would ask if they would like to give a subscription to someone who didn’t have the money to pay for one but would like to read it. Many

people liked to do that.” Marie Camille’s customer service skills must have stood her in good stead here too, since she spent her last ten years with the *Messenger* as Assistant Manager.

After retiring to Oldenburg, Marie Camille took care of the media room/spiritual library. She loved listening to classical music and opera; she was an avid sports fan. Marie Camille also had a wonderful sense of humor. Knowing how I detested snow, she with a twinkle in her eye delighted in passing on dire forecasts of winter weather.

Marie Camille also enthusiastically participated in Oldenburg Academy’s Adopt-a-Sis program which gave her an opportunity to hear about the lives of teenagers here on campus. At one time she had 27 adopted students!

Above all, Marie Camille loved her family and her visits with them. She cared often for great-nephews as they were growing up. We offer our sympathy then to Marie Camille’s brother and sister-in-law Herbert and Patty, to her brother Robert and partner Tim, and to her sister-in-law Ginny, as well as to her nephews, nieces, and extended family. We express our grateful appreciation to the nursing and pastoral staffs in St. Clare Hall.

Marie Camille’s folder in our file is filled with certificates and awards of various kinds—Religious Sister of the Year, Distinguished Graduate, Dedicated Service to Catholic Education, Who’s Who Among American Women, Who’s Who in American Education. We rejoice with her in her latest and greatest achievement, however, as she joins the company of our Franciscan saints in heaven. We are confident in wishing her a very “Happy New Year!”

In gratitude for gifts shared,



Sister Christa Franzer  
*For the General Council*

### **SISTER MARIE CAMILLE (*LaVerne*) SCHMALTZ**

**Birth: February 11, 1928**

**Entered Religious Life: September 8, 1946**

**Entered Eternal Life: December 29, 2023**

#### **MISSIONS AT WHICH S. RACHEL SERVED:**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1949-1952 St. Francis, Cincinnati, OH     | 1971-1980 St. James, Cincinnati, OH             |
| 1952-1953 St. Mary, North Vernon, IN      | 1980-1983 Our Mother of Sorrows, Cincinnati, OH |
| 1953-1954 St. Louis, Batesville, IN       | 1983-1984 St. Ann, Grosebeck, Cincinnati, OH    |
| 1954-1958 Holy Trinity, Indianapolis, IN  | 1984-1987 St. Gabriel, Cincinnati, OH           |
| 1958-1963 Our Lady of Mercy, Dayton, OH   | 1987-1993 Cure of Ars, Cincinnati, OH           |
| 1963-1966 Little Flower, Indianapolis, IN | 1993-1996 Lazarus Dept. Store, Cincinnati, OH   |
| 1966-1971 St. James, Cincinnati, OH       | 1996-2009 St. Anthony Messenger, Cincinnati, OH |
| 1970-1971 Corpus Christi, Cincinnati, OH  | 2009-2023 Motherhouse Ministry, 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)