



## SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

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



December 12, 2024

On the morning of December 10<sup>th</sup>, when the world commemorates the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, our Sister Monica Zore quietly and at peace slipped into the arms of her loving Creator. What an appropriate reminder of Monica's deep connection to those in our society that live on the margins.

S. MONICA ZORE

Monica Ann Zore was born in Indianapolis on November 1, 1948. She was the daughter of Victor and Dorothea Rosner Zore, who preceded her in death along with her brother Vic Zore. She was from Holy Trinity parish in Indianapolis where she became very acquainted with the sisters from Oldenburg. Her parents were among the regular group that transported the sisters to and from Oldenburg for summer retreats. As S. Monica noted in an article in a community publication, "I could recite the Mysteries of the Rosary before I could skip. I made many trips which watered the seed of my vocation."

As a product of Franciscan elementary education, the only choice for a westside girl in those days was St. Mary Academy. It was there that Monica learned more deeply what these sisters were all about. Her parents often joked that she should just get a room there as Monica was often volunteering with the sisters and eager to help in any way she could. Again, Monica noted that she "may have been the only one surprised when S. Geraldine Marie suggested that God might be calling."

Monica entered the Sisters of St. Francis right after high school, but only stayed for ten months the first time around. "I had some growing to do." It was in the Franciscan climate at Marian College though that Monica's vocation continued to grow. The three years at Marian College led Monica to a deeper understanding of who she was. It was there that she discovered her need for community to continue her faith journey. "When I entered the community the second time, I was 21, and I knew Jesus in a personal relationship. I knew I needed community to strengthen and develop my relationship with God."

Beyond the community of sisters at Oldenburg, S. Monica established another community at Marian University where she taught for 39 years. She started at Marian as an instructor of Math in 1983 and was promoted to Assistant Professor in 1986 and tenured in 1990. On her retirement in 2022 it was noted, "She has served on and chaired so many committees and councils for so long that many of them don't exist anymore. She has been the chair of the Department of Math, a coordinator of the Ethics Bowl, and most recently chaired the Academic Policies Committee." Dr. Matt DeLong, who was the department chair at the time, commented, "She is the voice of conscience regarding our Franciscan heritage and ethos, willing to speak truth to power, always in a manner that upholds and models Franciscan values."

Daniel J. Elsener, President of Marian University, noted in a letter to faculty and staff on the passing of S. Monica, "As a professor, S. Monica was renowned for her remarkable ability to make mathematics not only understandable, but also enjoyable. Her dedication to her students was unflagging, and her passion for teaching inspiring." In 2012, Monica was honored with Marian University's Franciscan Values Award, a recognition that spoke to the depth of her commitment to Marian University's mission of excellence in learning and to the Gospel values Marian strives to embody. As President Elsener went on to say, "Beyond her teaching, S. Monica very clearly honored the dignity of every individual she encountered. She was always there to offer her time, wisdom, and support. Her

spirit of service was also deeply rooted in her Franciscan commitment to responsible stewardship, as she thoughtfully helped her students hone their God-given talents. She was a pillar of strength and support for all who knew her.”

In the poem, *Annunciation*, an appropriate reflection for Advent by Denise Levertov, there is a phrase that seems to capture the spirit of our sister Monica, “Compassion and intelligence fused in her, indivisible.” Monica’s mastery of mathematics and her passion for justice mingled together to knit a woman confident to ask the important questions. Without a doubt Monica resembled someone whose very essence recognized the dignity of each person she met, whether working as a tutor at the Indiana Women’s Prison or as a volunteer at St. Mary’s Child Center, a Professor at Marian University or within her very own Franciscan community.

We express our deep sympathy to her family, especially her sisters Melissa Hendricks and Nancy Holmes and brother, Jerry, to her very special friend S. Carol Slinger, her classmates, her many friends, and to our nursing and pastoral care staff in St. Clare Hall who so lovingly cared for Monica. We will certainly miss her smile and joyful spirit but find comfort in knowing she is at peace. We are truly grateful for the gift of Monica in our lives and for her inspiration and call to live a life of compassion and joy.

Rejoicing in her new life,



Sister Robbie Pentecost  
For the Leadership Team

SISTER MONICA ZORE, OSF

Birth: November 1, 1948

Entered Religious Life: July 9, 1970

Entered Eternal Life: December 10, 2024

MISSIONS WHERE S. MONICA SERVED:

1971-1972	Immaculate Conception Academy, Oldenburg IN
1972-1983	Badin High School, Hamilton OH
1983-1999	Marian (College) University, Indianapolis IN
1999-2000	Sabbatical
2000-2022	Marian (College) University, Indianapolis IN
2022-2024	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)