



## SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

PO Box 100 OLDENBURG, IN 47036

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FACEBOOK: FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF OLDENBURG



S. STEPHANIE ZIMMER, OSF

December 5, 2017

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

S. Stephanie Zimmer journeyed peacefully home to God early Tuesday morning, December 5<sup>th</sup> as Sisters were keeping vigil in prayer.

Mary (Stephanie) was born September 18, 1931, the youngest of four children. She, along with her older siblings, Henry, Anna and George, lived in Indianapolis. Her parents, August and Magda, were both immigrants from Germany.

Stephanie attended the neighborhood St. Catherine School throughout her elementary years, although skipping the sixth grade. During this time she felt the call to religious life and wanted to go to the Sisters of Providence Aspirancy for high school. Upon her mother's request she went to St. Mary Academy instead. It was here she met the Franciscans and stated, "Something in those Sisters spoke to me! There was a spirit at St. Mary's that I had never known before, and it was good!"

Still feeling the call to religious life, Stephanie thought she would enter the convent after high school but this time her dad asked her to wait. She received a scholarship to Marian University and later recalled that this first year of college was the best of her educational experiences. At the end of that year she did indeed enter the convent.

The following prayer had great meaning for Stephanie and serves as a reflection of her life.

**"Lord, take me where you want me to go;  
Let me meet who you want me to meet;  
Tell me what you want me to say, and  
Keep me out of your way."**

Fr. Mychal Judge, OFM

Through the years, Stephanie's educational background included degrees from Marian University, Xavier University, and a doctorate from Catholic University of America.

**"Lord, take me where you want me to go."**

At the beginning of her years in ministry, Stephanie taught in various Catholic elementary grade schools in Indiana and Ohio. After receiving her PhD she taught for a number of years in the education department at Marian University, mentored teachers and diligently pursued the accreditation status for the department. She later returned to teaching in the elementary schools. Stephanie was an exemplary teacher, bringing learning to life, making it meaningful, enjoyable and purposeful. Most of all, she gave students the tools and confidence they needed to achieve their potential and feel good about themselves.

**"Let me meet who you want me to meet."**

Later in life, Stephanie saw a growing need to serve the people of the parish and delighted in the pastoral ministry, whether meeting one on one, in groups, teaching RCIA, ministering to the sick

and dying or just listening to people. She was God's healing and loving presence. Stephanie also served in a similar role at the Motherhouse ministering to the retired Sisters.

**“Tell me what you want me to say.”**

Stephanie, by her gentle manner, let God's love shine through her. She spoke with warmth, love and compassion. Through her photography she often captured the beauty of creation and loved to share it with others, particularly the elderly Sisters, saying “It brings joy to retired Sisters who can no longer enjoy the outdoors.” If a picture is worth a thousand words, she must have spoken volumes about God's goodness!

**“And keep me out of the way.”**

Stephanie enjoyed life. She loved to travel to distant places such as the ocean or nearby state parks. Her creativity was a special gift. She liked art and music. She called her childhood piano her “old treasured friend” because she could play it for any occasion and mood. She also enjoyed playing the organ, learning guitar and singing in the choir. Other interests included drama, craft making and reading. Stephanie was humble about her gifts and talents as she freely shared them with others. The gentle hand and love of God were seen through her. She rose to the occasion for what was needed. Stephanie once prepared a boy for his Bar Mitzvah.

We commend Stephanie back to God. She has gone where God wanted her to go, met people along the way and made a difference in their lives because she has indeed been a channel of God's grace. Thank you, Stephanie!

We extend our sympathy, love and prayers to Stephanie's family, her dear friend Marilyn Hofer, classmates and other friends. We thank our nursing and pastoral care staff for their tender care for Stephanie.

In loving memory,



Sister Joanita Koors, OSF  
for the Council

**SISTER STEPHANIE (MARY) ZIMMER**

Birth: September 18, 1931

Entrance into Religious Life: September 8, 1949

Entrance into Eternal Life: December 5, 2017

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

1951-1952	St. Clare, Cincinnati, OH	1983-1991	St. Athanasius, Roseville, MI
1952-1955	St. Michael, Brookville, IN	1992-1993	St. Michael Parish, Indianapolis, IN
1955-1958	St. Michael, Indianapolis, IN	1993-2000	Motherhouse Minister to Retired Oldenburg, IN
1958-1959	St. Mary, Greensburg, IN	2001-2002	Marian University, Indianapolis, IN
1959-1963	St. Michael, Indianapolis, IN	2002-2005	Marion County Public Library & Marian University, Indianapolis, IN
1963-1964	St. Lawrence, Indianapolis, IN	2005-2017	Motherhouse, Oldenburg, IN
1964-1967	Catholic University, Washington, DC		
1967-1974	Marian University, Indianapolis, IN		
1975-1977	Marian University, Indianapolis, IN		
1977-1983	Sacred Heart, Clinton, 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)*