



SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

PO BOX 100 OLDENBURG, IN 47036

WWW.OLDENBURGFRAUCISCANS.ORG

FACEBOOK: FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF OLDENBURG



S. TECLA JAEHNEN, OSF

March 11, 2018

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

“Eye has not seen, ear has not heard what God has ready for those who love Him.”

1 Corinthians 2:9

S. Tecla Jaehnen journeyed home to God early Sunday morning March 11. With eyes of faith and a deep longing for God, S. Tecla now sees clearly the glory of God and all that is ready for her.

Born to Al and Helen Jaehnen on Flag Day, 1937, Rose (Tecla) was the second of four children and the only girl. During her elementary school years she recalls that her companions were mostly boys along with her three brothers, Paul, Vincent and Victor. She was often considered the most tomboyish of all. She enjoyed her childhood and appreciated her parents' values of faith and family time. She writes, “Many were the nights in the summer that Dad led us to a local ball park, plus half-a-dozen neighborhood kids. He played ball with us until it got so dark we'd lose the ball.” Vacations included Coney Island, the zoo, picnic grounds, ball parks and movies.

The Jaehnen family moved from Linn Street in Cincinnati to St. Bernard when Tecla was thirteen years old. There she attended St. Clement grade school and Our Lady of Angels High School, both staffed by the Oldenburg Franciscans. Tecla enjoyed being part of the softball and basketball teams. By her junior year Tecla and three of her close friends from OLA committed themselves to the Franciscan Sisters' Aspirancy in Oldenburg and entered the convent the following year.

S. Tecla's early ministry found her teaching both at the elementary and high school levels. She was not particularly fond of teaching but was assured she was doing a good job and was loved by students and parents. While teaching at OLA in St. Bernard, she lived across the street from her parents so she considered that a bonus.

At age 44, Tecla asked to be relieved of classroom duties to study photography. The community had opened its Communication Office, and she became aware that photojournalistic photography was an up-and-coming trend in the church, school and religious community life. She was granted her request and spent a year at the Ohio Institute of Photography in Dayton. This prepared her for the kind of work she would do for the next 20 plus years. She became the Community's first Sister in self-directed ministry, having her own business, ***P.R. Photos by Tecla***. She set up her darkroom at the new Good Shepherd Parish in Cincinnati. In her ministry she claimed to do a lot of ego bolstering. She said, “People think ‘I'm not worth talking about.’ I help them feel good about themselves.” Tecla stated, “Nothing in my apostolic work through the years has been as satisfying to me as my photographic career. The time I spent as ‘community photographer’ gave me great pleasure and fulfillment in my religious life.” Her personal mission was to assist educational, pastoral and social ministers in bringing the Word of God to the world. She became a free-lance photographer for our community, her parish, the Cincinnati Archdiocese, Catholic schools and other religious congregations. Being a photojournalist, she told the story in pictures. She especially loved to capture images of people that reflected their own life and goodness to others, and to themselves.

When photographing for the Community's pictorial directory Tecla's said, "I love being in touch with each member of the Community. I become a part of their life for a little while and get a glimpse of each one's spirit." It offered her the chance to see the beauty of each person.

Tecla states, "Having been involved in the production of many portrait directories for our Sisters, and other religious communities throughout the states, a favorite technique I employed had to do with the eyes of the person. I often felt I could best capture the personality of my subject by the look in their eyes." She would ask them to "Smile at me with your eyes." Through her photographic eye, she captured their goodness and hoped to mirror it back to them. For this reason her favorite stained glass window is the "Eye of God" above the entrance to our chapel.

By age 60 Tecla needed to slow down a bit due to the onset of Parkinson's disease. It was also during this time Tecla became the primary care-giver for her father, aunt and uncle in their later years.

S. Tecla kept her sense of humor, prayerfulness, faith and hope throughout her life and in particular through her physical suffering. Her joy and presence will be missed. Her photography will remain, as will our memory of her.

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to her family, friends and classmates. We thank our nursing staff and pastoral care for their kindness and care for Tecla.

Tecla, you now have a clear vision of heaven and earth. May you continue to keep a close focus on us and keep us in your prayers as we thank God for you and the beautiful gift to Community you have been.

In loving memory,



Sister Joanita Koors, OSF
for the Council

SISTER TECLA (Rose) JAEHNEN, OSF

Birth: June 14, 1937

Entrance into Religious Life: February 2, 1955

Entrance into Eternal Life: March 11, 2018

MISSIONS AT WHICH S. TECLA SERVED:

1956-1959	St. Mary, Greensburg, IN	1971-1972	St. Vincent, Vincennes, IN
1959-1961	Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany, IN	1972-1973	St. Mary Academy, Indianapolis, IN
1961-1963	St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg, IN	1973-1981	OLA, St. Bernard, OH
1963-1964	Holy Cross, St. Louis, MO	1981-1982	OH Inst. of Photography
1964-1966	St. Vincent, Vincennes, IN	1982-2002	Free Lance Photographer, Cincinnati, OH, Oldenburg, IN
1966-1967	St. Mary Academy, Indianapolis, IN	2002-2008	Photographer, Oldenburg, IN
1967-1969	Immaculate Conception Academy, Oldenburg, IN	2008-2018	Motherhouse Ministry - Retirement
1969-1971	Our Lady of the Angels, St. Bernard, OH		

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