Sisters of St. Francis
OLDENBURG INDIANA

PO Box 100, Oldenburg, IN 47036
www.OldenburgFranciscans.org

Sister Norma Jean Hynes

July 28, 2026

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

With a big smile, Sr. Norma Jean Hynes gently embraced our God around 2:30 PM on July 25, 2026. Norma Jean was born to Mary and John Hynes on December 22, 1932, in Indianapolis. She was the third of six children. Reading her autobiography was a delight. She tells her age when each of her other siblings were born and something about that day. Norma Jean was ten when her sister, Teresa, was born. She went on to recount that when her mother returned home from the hospital with Teresa, she (Norma Jean) made her first apple pie. Because she was 15 when Cathy was born, she said she felt like a second mother to her.

The Hynes family became Catholic when she was in the second grade, and that's when she entered St. Francis de Sales grade school. Norma Jean went to St. Mary's Academy in Indianapolis for high school where she often helped the Franciscan Sisters at school. After high school, she worked various jobs before entering the convent. Then one day she shared that she was praying, and Jesus said, "Give me your heart and I will give you mine." From that day forward she prayed that she could do this.

Norma Jean lived the kind of life St. Clare of Assisi referred to as "sisterly love". St. Clare viewed sisterly love as a deep spiritual bond rooted in mutual service, humility, and love. Norma Jean showed this sisterly love to her Hynes family, Franciscan family, and the many she encountered on this earth. For 25 years she taught primary grades and helped children to know Jesus, especially at First Communion time. In June of 1980, she was asked to leave the children she loved so much to nurse her beloved sisters in the healthcare center then called St. Francis Hall. Norma Jean acknowledged that it was very difficult for her to leave the children, but says she soon realized the Sisters showed her that she could have the same love with them.

One of her favorite memories as a Franciscan Sister was the opportunity to take part in a personal growth program at Emmaus House in St. Louis. This she indicated was an opportunity to learn more about herself, and she especially felt she grew in self-confidence.

After many years of teaching and nursing, she spent time at the motherhouse everyday going to the sewing room to make blankets for the poor from material given to the sisters. On average it would take her 1-2 days to complete a blanket. Then Norma Jean would

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give the blanket to a sister who was in direct ministry with the poor. Her sisterly love continued even with those she had not met personally but knew in her heart. With a loving heart dedicated to others, Norma Jean found joy in teaching, nursing, and caring for the poor. Her unique blend of education and healthcare reflects her deep commitment to nurturing minds and bodies alike, making a true Franciscan figure to imitate.

We extend our deepest sympathy to her sisters Teresa Lenahen and Cathy (Doug) Jeffries, as well as several nieces and nephews, her classmates, her many friends, and to our nursing staff in St. Clare Hall who gently and kindly attended to Norma Jean as she did for so many.

In grateful memory,

S. Maggie Rahe, OSF

Sister Maggie Rahe
For the Leadership Team

SISTER NORMA JEAN HYNES *(formerly Sister Dolorose)*
BORN: December 22, 1932
ENTERED RELIGIOUS LIFE: February 2, 1954
ENTERED ETERNAL LIFE: July 25, 2026

MISSIONS AT WHICH SISTER NORMA JEAN SERVED:

1955-1959	St. John, Middletown OH
1959-1963	Sacred Heart, Clinton IN
1963-1974	Holy Name, Indianapolis IN
1974-1975	St. Mark, Indianapolis IN
1975-1980	St. Mary, Bloomington IL
1980-1985	Motherhouse, Oldenburg IN
1985-1986	Emmaus House, St. Louis MO
1987-2026	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*