

September 27, 2016



Dear Sisters and Associates,

On Thursday, September 22, 2016 Associate Donna Hamblin was called home to her loving God. Donna, the Sister of Daria Mitchell OSF, was born on May 20, 1947 to Daria (Nee: Bredestege) and Kenneth Mitchell. She married Jack Hamblin on February 14, 1986. Jack preceded her in death in 2012.

Donna was a quiet but faithful presence in her Associate relationship. She signed her Associate Commitment on May 4, 2014. If she was able, she was here on the Oldenburg premises attending a day of prayer, volunteering in the Associate office, or visiting with the sisters in St. Clare Hall, especially with her contact Sister, Therese Tackett OSF. Just before she signed her commitment, Donna shared the following, ***“I have enjoyed every minute with Sr. Therese. You could not have picked a better contact for me to aid me in my journey of becoming an Associate.”*** The feeling was mutual as Sr. Therese shared, ***“Donna was a delight to walk with. She was genuine, and refreshing. Her commitment and love for animals and nature spoke of her Franciscan heart.”***

Although Donna was an Associate for a short period of time, her witness of the Franciscan charism was lived with maturity and faithfulness. In her Associate Commitment Statement Donna expressed her desire to ***“live the Franciscan way of life by treating all people with love and compassion and all creatures as St. Francis would have wanted.”*** Donna lived her statement through her devotion to those she served at the Batesville Food Pantry, and those she befriended in her Holy Family Parish Community. She had an infectious smile, when asked about her goats or her dog Fluffy she would just glow. Donna continued her commitment statement with, ***“I will live in the spirit of poverty and look for Christ in all things.”*** She lived a simple life, sharing what she had with a grateful heart.

Donna wanted to become an Associate Member of the Oldenburg Franciscans so she could follow in the footsteps of Francis and Clare giving praise and thanks to God for all God had given her. Today, we give thanks and praise to you, Donna, for your example, your love, and your faithfulness in your care of creation. You will be missed by the many lives you have touched!

Jane Schaefer
Associate Co-Director