



SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

PO BOX 100 OLDENBURG, IN 47036

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FACEBOOK: FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF OLDENBURG



S. KATHLEEN MCSHAY, OSF

June 6, 2014

Dear Sisters, Associates, Family and Friends,

On June third, Sister Alacoque Burger asked Sister Kathleen McShay if she would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, to which she responded positively. A quiet ceremony commenced, attended by her classmates who reside at Oldenburg and the nursing staff. About twelve hours later, Kathleen was called by God into eternity.

Rosalee McShay was born on May 9, 1935, the youngest of four children born to Mildred and Hubert McShay. She described her years at Our Lady of Lourdes Grade School and St. Agnes Academy in Indianapolis as being fun-filled with a lot of time spent with friends playing tennis, swimming, and enjoying other outdoor activities. Sister Mary Clare Ennis is listed as a person having a major influence in fostering Kathleen's religious vocation. After entering the convent on September 8, 1953, Kathleen was educated as a teacher and spent fifteen years in the classroom. But she always felt called to work with adults. So after receiving a graduate degree in theology, she began a change of direction in her ministry, serving at various places in religious education, campus ministry, and parish work. She also became a certified nursing assistant and enjoyed hospice and nursing home duties.

Kathleen's mother died during the summer of her final vow year, and her father died four months later. In her autobiography, she describes this as a life-changing year. She experienced extreme loneliness, but also felt that it gave her the ability to give people quiet time before they shared ideas and feelings. Kathleen had her share of uncertainties and troubling times. Twice she experienced a time apart from the community to reconsider her vocation and deal with personal problems. When she returned, she continued to exhibit a strong spiritual drive despite her problems.

Last July, Kathleen celebrated her 60th Jubilee and it proved to be another life-changing event. She was very moved by the liturgy and that seemed to help her accept the next months when her health quickly deteriorated. In her last few days, she still summoned the strength to laugh and tease the housekeepers who cleaned her room and to use an alphabet chart to spell out "Happy Birthday" to one of them. Her much-proclaimed Irish heritage gave her additional fodder for jokes and light moments with visitors and staff.

During her final anointing, Kathleen slowly opened her crippled fingers to receive the blessed oil, an inspiring scene for all present. It seemed to be her final acceptance and commitment, echoed in the words of the prophet Hosea, which she chose for the first reading of her funeral Mass: "I will espouse you to me forever. I will espouse you in right and in justice, in love and in mercy. I will espouse you in fidelity and you shall know the Lord.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to her beloved family and her classmates and friends.
May she rest in blessing and peace.

Sister Margie Niemer OSF

S. Margie Niemer
for the Council

S. KATHLEEN (ROSALEE) MCSHAY, OSF

Birth: May 9, 1935

Entrance into Religious Life: September 8, 1953

Entrance into Eternal Life: June 4, 2014

MISSIONS AT WHICH S. KATHLEEN SERVED:

1955-1958 St. Mary, Evansville, IN
1958-1959 St. Mary, Middletown, OH
1959-1962 Holy Family, Richmond, IN
1962-1964 St. Bartholomew, Cincinnati, OH
1964-1965 St. Aloysius, Bridgetown, Cincinnati, OH
1965-1966 St. Mark, Indianapolis, IN
1966-1967 St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg, IN
1967-1973 Little Flower, Indianapolis, IN
1973-1979 Community Hospital, Indianapolis, IN
1979-1980 Girls' Clubs of Greater Indianapolis
1980-1981 St. Peter, Douglas, MI
1981-1982 St. Paul, Columbia City, IN
1982-1983 House of Affirmation, Webster Grove, MO
1983-1985 St. Mary Parish, Oxford, OH
1985-1987 Home Ministry, Richmond, IN
1987-1988 Good Samaritan Hospital, Cincinnati, OH
1988-1989 Exclaustration
1989-1991 St. Vincent Hospital, Indianapolis, IN
1991-1992 St. Ann Parish, Warsaw, MO
1992-1993 Methodist Retirement Home, Franklin, IN
1993-1994 Leave of Absence
1994-1995 Bethany Village Residential, Indianapolis, IN
1995-1996 Americare, Indianapolis, IN
1996-1997 St. Martin, Yorkville/St. Paul, New Alsace, IN
1997-2003 Margaret Mary Community Hospital, Batesville, IN
2003-2007 Volunteer to Elderly and Bereaved
2007-2014 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