



SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

PO BOX 100 OLDENBURG, IN 47036

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FACEBOOK: FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF OLDENBURG



S. MARY WALTER SOKOLIC, OSF

September 29, 2015

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

On September 24, Pope Francis was leading a Vespers service in New York. During the course of the prayer, he thanked the American Sisters for their service and told them of his love for them. Shortly after the prayer concluded, Sister Mary Walter Sokolic completed her earthly journey, fortified by the love and gratitude of her Church, her Community and her family.

Mary Frances Sokolic was the first-born of four children in the Sokolic family in St. Louis, Missouri. Her brother Tom died in infancy and Mary Frances remained the only child for nine years. Her sister Betty Ann was born, then Rosalie rounded out the family.

During her elementary school years, Mary Frances met the Oldenburg Franciscans and in high school was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She held class offices and delighted in playing and coaching softball and tennis. Her mother instilled in the children a love for the Blessed Mother and the Eucharist. Mary Frances accompanied her mother to weekly devotions in their Croatian parish. It was devastating when Mary Frances, at age sixteen, experienced the death of her mother. She had been thinking of entering the Oldenburg community after high school, but delayed her plans for five years in order to be with her two siblings as they adjusted to life without their mother.

September 15, 1954 was the day Mary Frances came to Oldenburg to join the Franciscan family. Organizational skills learned from her father helped her to become a successful teacher and principal. When choosing a religious name at her investiture, Mary Frances said that it was an easy decision to choose her father's name as a tribute to all he had done for their family.

A former faculty member at Our Lady of Victory School testified to S. Mary Walter's abilities as a principal. He said she possessed an authoritative voice which gave children confidence that she was taking care of things, but that her voice was always calm and never raised in anger. Faculty members appreciated her wit and recognizable laugh as well as her sincere interest in them and their families.

When her teaching/administrative days were over, S. Mary Walter continued her ministry to children by serving as a librarian. In 1999, her health dictated that she begin her retirement ministry. It was a particular joy for her to help other Sisters send and receive e-mails. She also followed the St. Louis Cardinals with avid interest as well as the Cincinnati Reds – if they weren't playing against the Cardinals!

The opening verse of the first reading that S. Mary Walter chose for her funeral liturgy reads:

“See how much the Father has loved us!”

Life was difficult for S. Mary Walter in the last few years as she became confined to a chair and eventually to her bed, but she always knew that she was loved by her God. We extend our sympathy to her family, friends and classmates, especially to S. Bernetta Stuhrenberg. We extend our gratitude to the nursing staff and pastoral care team of St. Clare Hall. We are assured that now she knows, without any doubt, how much the Father has always loved her.

With blessings for all,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sister Margie Niemer OSF".

S. Margie Niemer, OSF
for the General Council

SISTER MARY WALTER SOKOLIC

Born: July 20, 1931

Entered Religious Life: September 15, 1954

Entered Eternal Life: September 24, 2015

Missions at which S. Mary Walter ministered:

1954-1956	St. Louis, Batesville, IN
1956-1959	Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany, IN
1959-1963	St. Louis, Batesville, IN
1963-1966	St. Anthony, Dayton, OH
1966-1973	St. Aloysius, Delhi, Cincinnati, OH
1973-1974	St. Joseph, Princeton, IN
1974-1979	Our Lady of Victory, Cincinnati, OH
1979-1984	Seton High School, Cincinnati, OH
1984-1994	St. Clement, St. Bernard, OH
1986-1999	Roger Bacon High School, St. Bernard, OH
1999-2015	Motherhouse, Oldenburg, IN