 December 12, 2022

Dear Associates and Sisters,

On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2022,

Associate, Carolyn Hoagland, completed her journey home to God.

Carolyn was born April 8, 1948, in Indianapolis to the late Charles Stanley and Lila Elizabeth (Sherwood) Hoagland.

Carolyn served as a purchasing manager for Thomas & Skinner, Inc and then with Firestone Industrial Products.

Carolyn was a member of the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg from 1966 through 1974. She attended the Immaculate Conception Academy as an aspirant and graduated four years later. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Marian University. After an extra year of discernment, Carolyn decided to leave religious life.

In 1995, still feeling called to the Franciscan Charism, Carolyn pursued the Associate Relationship with the guidance of her dearest friend, Shirley Doll. In April of 1996, Carolyn signed her commitment becoming an Oldenburg Franciscan Associate.

Associate, Maureen Foley, first met Carolyn at a Community Day in the Sister’s Chapel. Attendees were invited to discuss questions with those around them at which time she met Carolyn and Shirley. Maureen shares, “That meeting was the start of a friendship that will be treasured forever. I saw Carolyn as a loving and giving friend, excellent planner, great prayer partner and teacher, who taught what true forgiveness was and how to live it in daily life. She lived the Franciscan values witnessing to the people in her life as well as to the pets she loved. Her two Cocker Spaniel dogs Lucy and Rusty, surrounded her as she made her journey home to God.”

Becky Koors and Peggy Moore, also friends of Carolyn, share “Carolyn truly loved the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg and was proud to let others know of her connection.” They went on to say, “Carolyn was one of the most determined and organized persons one could have the privilege of knowing. Whether it was figuring out where to go for dinner, traveling throughout the United States or going over-seas, she researched, planned, and figured out how to make a trip happen.” Carolyn, Shirley, Becky, and Peggy traveled to Italy several times. “We traveled by plane, train, boat, and car, as well as pushing or pulling Shirley in her wheelchair up and down the hills of Assisi.” Together the four shared in the Papal Mass in Rome, spent time in Assisi, took in the beautiful Italy countryside and enjoyed the sights of London. “The four of us along with Shirley’s sister Anna Mae and Sr. Joanita Koors, took a trip out west to the Grand Canyon where we enjoyed a mule ride, hot air balloon ride, and climbing the forbidden mountain…a great time was had by all!” In closing, Becky and Peggy shared, “Carolyn was very devoted to her entire extended family, as well as her dear friend Shirley. She was thrilled to have Rick, her little brother, back into her life again whom we thank for the care he gave Carolyn in her final days. We mourn her death but know we have another angel keeping an eye on us, while she helps organize heaven!”

Friend and spiritual companion Sr. Marj English speaks of Carolyn’s open heartedness and how being open hearted led Carolyn to opening her house to friends and family in need. She also spoke of Carolyn’s work ethic stating, “Carolyn’s employers seem to spot Carolyn’s leadership ability and utilized it through promotions and assignments. Carolyn was a fast learner and would get things done.” Sr. Marj echoes what Maureen, Becky, and Peggy shared about Carolyn’s ability to plan and then execute her plan to its completion. When it came to Carolyn’s spirituality, Sr. Marj shares, “Carolyn had a deep faith and trust in God, she was steadfast in her love and faithfulness to God, family, and friends.” Carolyn put her love for God and others in action by taking communion to those in the hospital, a ministry she had hoped to return.

Carolyn is survived by her brother, Richard Hoagland, sister, Kathleen Wagner; sister-in-law, JoAnn Hoagland, and several nieces and nephews and good friend Shirley Doll. She was preceded in death by her sister, Maryann Burton; and brother, Robert M. Hoagland.

Sr. Joanita Koors highlighted Carolyn’s willingness to lend a helping hand. She goes on to say, “Carolyn was such a faithful friend to Shirley Doll seeing that all her needs were met. She was a super organizer, and planner, and got to the heart of things.” Carolyn touched the lives of many, “she had a wonderful sense of humor. She was faithful to her God and shared her spirituality and love of God with others. She was a dear friend who loved to come to Oldenburg and looked forward to coming whenever possible.”

When Shirley Doll walked with Carolyn as her contact person, she shared, “I feel very blessed to have journeyed with Carolyn and have seen much growth spiritually and emotionally over the years.” She went on to say, “Carolyn is a prayerful person who lives her faith wherever she happens to be.”

Sr. Marj continues, “Carolyn’s love and understanding of God in her life can be summed up by the words of some of her favorite spiritual psalms and songs she valued and prayed.”

 “The Lord is my light and my salvation.”

 “No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that rock I’m clinging. Since Love is Lord

 of heaven and earth, How can I keep from singing.”

 “Lead me, guide me, along the way, for if you lead me, I cannot stray…”

 “All that I am, all that I do, All that I’ll ever have, I offer now to you.”

Carolyn, all that you are, all that you did, all that you ever had, has now been offered to God.

Rest in God’s loving embrace.

Jane Schaefer