August 15, 2022

Dear Associates and Sisters,

On August 3, 2022 Associate Sheila Jane Adsit journeyed home to God. Sheila was born on January 16, 1940 in Muscatine, Iowa to the late Fred and Mary Peters. Sheila married Joseph Diederich in 1959 and the two had five children: Lisa, Joel, Amy, Carrie, and Chris. Sheila married Bob Adsit in 1981 and gained a step-daughter Rebecca. The two resided in the Woodruff/Springdale neighborhood for nearly 40 years. Sheila enjoyed 10 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Sheila and her late husband Bob were Franciscan to the core. Everything they strived to do in life was for the betterment of others, especially the poor. They opened their home to the poor and homeless for more than 10 years providing warm meals, clothes, and a place to rest. Conscientious about the food they purchased and where they purchased it from, they soon became stewards of the earth. When it was time to purge their clothes closets, they made sure their clothes went to those most in need. They felt called to the Franciscan Charism early in life delving deep into their faith through study and prayer. Thich Nhat Hanh and Richard Rohr were a few of Sheila’s favorite authors. Sheila attended Catholic Schools through her second year of college. She loved St. Francis and was honored to be associated with the Oldenburg Franciscan Sisters and Associates. Sheila signed her Associate commitment in 1994 with Sr. Marie Werdmann (deceased) serving as her contact person.

Becky Koors, a friend of Bob and Sheila shared, “Sheila was a true example of what a Franciscan, Christ-like person was all about. She always looked out / advocated for the hungry, homeless and unemployed who suffered with mental health conditions, and folks just needing a listening ear. She and Bob opened their home to anyone in need, regardless of who they were or if they even knew the person. Sheila often gave her last dollar to anyone in need seeing to it that others needs were met before her own. She and Bob loved Oldenburg, the Sisters, Michaela Farm, and Mother Earth, doing all she could to preserve it.”

There is not enough room in this letter to list all of the ways Sheila reached out in loving service to others. Some of the activities she was most passionate about included: homeschooling some of her grandchildren, donating time and money to peace and justice efforts, counseling individuals with mental health disorders, tutoring children and teaching them moral values, recycling, doing whatever she could to help/improve the environment, helping moms with small children by taking the children on outings and giving their moms some needed space, helping with different government elections, writing notes and cards to the sick within the parish and community, serving as a Eucharistic Minister, and doing home visits to shut-ins.

Sheila enjoyed crossword puzzles, gardening, baking, reading scripture, singing, dancing, but most of all, being surrounded by her family.

Sheila, thank you for your faithfulness to the Gospel and to the Franciscan Charism.

Rest in Peace!

Jane Schaefer