

November 27, 2018



Dear Associates,

On Saturday, November 17, Associate Sue Kuznicki was called home by her loving God. Sue became an Associate on April 6, 2008. Her contact person and dear friend, Carole Borellis walked with Sue as she discerned her call to the Associate Relationship. Sue lived in Cincinnati with her husband, and high school sweetheart, Jim. Together they had two sons (Jason, Matthew) a daughter (Sarah) deceased and a granddaughter (Alice).

Before retiring, Sue worked full time as a Branch Manager for Foundation Bank in Cincinnati. She also served in her parish as a Eucharistic Minister, and as Chairperson of the Campaign for Life (Respect Life) group.

In her initial interview for becoming an Associate, Sue stated, ***"I have always lived a Franciscan Life style, but didn't know it. I believe in walking gently on Mother Earth, and respecting all life; human, vegetative, and mammal. I grow some of my own food, and believe in simplicity. By becoming an Associate, this lifestyle now has a name – Franciscan!"*** Friend and Troubadour member Carol Ann Morrow shared, "Sue studied the life of St. Clare with Sister Diane Jamison and did some teaching about Clare's life with the Troubadours. Sue also prepared the Commissioning service for the Troubadours at least once. You could tell she had been a teacher, because her preparation was so thorough and methodical. I felt that whatever she did, she put her whole heart and soul into it."

Sue's hobbies included knitting, reading, and baking but her favorite activity was spending time with the Troubadours (Cincinnati Associate Group). When she was featured as Associate of the month, she stated, ***"I really enjoy being with like-minded women whose lives are Christ centered and grounded in Franciscan values. These woman, have really helped me grow in my prayer life, and I am grateful for all of them!"*** Carol Ann Morrow reminisced, "Sue's husband was gluten-intolerant and while this was certainly a minus for Jim, it was nice for the Troubadours because in Sue's love of baking she liked to prepare a 'gluten-filled' dessert for us!"

Troubadour member and friend, Gerry Deller shared that on September 29th the Troubadours had a Mass said for Sue's sister, Kay Serrone, who had passed away from the flu and other complications last year. Sue shared that that was the first time she had been to Mass since last Advent because of her own lack of strength and inability to be out for long periods of time. She celebrated Mass by watching it on T.V. Sue's last meeting with the Troubadours was October 2nd when Gerry picked her up for a ride. The two kept in touch via telephone but no one had any idea how close to death she actually was.

Also friend Karen Fults wrote, Sue was always willing to lead our Troubadour group discussions - She was an excellent teacher - offering her thoughts and reflections - but also allowing sufficient space for the rest of us to join in the conversation and to agree or to disagree with her thoughts.

Sue taught me a genuine life lesson about the importance of working in a healthy and life-enriching environment. She didn't give me all the answers I wanted - but she gave me enough hints and clues to live, work and learn through awareness (and some honest to goodness common sense). Her teaching skills were nurtured by her love and devotion for Franciscan values. Whether I agreed or disagreed with Sue's perspective about a book or any specific discussion topic, one thing is for sure - I never had to

wonder about how she felt about it - Sue made her thoughts crystal clear and held her "holy" ground on important matters with the deepest faith and genuine love. I so enjoyed her wit and how she lived out her life in absolute honesty and humility. I will miss her very much.

In 2017 Sue shared in her annual renewal reflection that the Franciscan value she most resonated with was that of “prayer” because **“it is through prayer that the longing for God is temporarily satisfied. It is also through community worship that we are ‘filled’ with courage and strength to carry on in our lives.”**

Sue, your longing has been fulfilled as you enjoy life eternal with your loving God.

Rest in Peace,

Jane Schaefer
Associate Co-Director

An Additional Reflection:

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Karen Fults