

January 4, 2019



Dear Sisters and Associates,

Mary Jane Dolehanty entered eternal life on December 28, 2018. Born on December 8th, she had an immediate connection to the Blessed Mother and her life was lived in imitation of the loving and devoted life led by Mary.

She married a classmate and neighbor, Joseph Patrick and together they raised two daughters and two sons in Richmond, Indiana. When her children were older she earned a degree in nursing and ministered to the residents of Golden Rule Nursing Home and cared for the mothers and newborns at Reid Hospital. The gift to nurture others seemed to come naturally for Mary Jane and this was witnessed by all who knew her.

She was the niece of Sister Anisia, OSF and Elizabeth Maurer, an Associate. She wanted to emulate both of them when she became an Associate in 2008 as she made her commitment to, “help in any fashion to alleviate the loneliness and suffering of others, by following the example of Jesus, Francis and Clare.” The Sisters and Associates were an inspiration to her, helping her to be patient with trials and to accept everyone as a child of God. She had a special relationship with her contact Sister, Ruth Greiwe (deceased), who described her as, “lovely, spiritual and independent.”

Normally reserved and quiet, she grew in her confidence to plan and organize gatherings. She often led prayer and rich spiritual discussions for the Richmond Associate group. They met in Hillman Hall for many years, enjoying pot luck lunches before the meetings. Everyone had their special dish and Mary Jane’s mouthwatering peanut butter cookies were always a welcomed treat.

The Associates relied on Mary Jane to bring them to Oldenburg on Thursdays to visit the Sisters in St. Clare Hall and to celebrate mass with the Community. Those who saw her in the halls or Chapel may not have known her name, but they recognized her by her kind personality and contagious smile. She lived the Franciscan charism, spreading the Gospel message by taking communion to the sick or homebound, respecting all of life, and caring more for her “grand dogs.”

Mary Jane was truly a Gentle Woman and Quiet Light to her family, friends and Franciscan brothers and sisters. May she shine in heaven knowing she was an example of unconditional love, joy and unflinching faith while here on earth.

May she rest in God’s loving arms,

Carolyn Meyer