SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS
PO Box 100 Oldenburg, IN 47036
www.OldenburgFranciscans.org

November 30, 2023 S. Doris Holohan OSF

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

On this feast of St. Andrew, as the Church celebrated his true discipleship, our beloved S. Doris Holohan herself heard the summons of Jesus, and at 2:45 PM, she followed our God into the joy of eternal life. Imagine her delight as she gathered with the Holohan family already assembled in Heaven!

Dorothy Holohan was born, the tenth of 16 children, to John and Anna Meyer Holohan in Streator, Illinois on April 28, 1935. Surrounded by a loving family, Dorothy enjoyed a happy childhood. Her elementary education at St. Anthony School, taught by Oldenburg Franciscans, set the stage for her consideration of religious life. Another powerful influence was the fact that her older sister, Cecilia, was already a member of the Franciscan Community. Doris recounted how Cecilia had come home for a vacation one summer and had asked to ride Dorothy's bike. "I felt that this was when I really began thinking of a religious vocation," she reflected. I found out these Sisters were human; they could enjoy a bit of fun. This was the kind I wanted to be."

The sudden death of Dorothy's father during her eighth grade year necessitated Dorothy's employment at St. Mary's Hospital in Streator. It was while she worked at the hospital, carrying trays and waiting on patients, that Dorothy began to think again about a religious vocation. "I enjoyed the work because I had the chance to help many people, and I found great satisfaction in this," Dorothy recounted. During her senior year in 1953, with the encouragement of her mother and her sister, Cecilia, Dorothy entered the Community and became S. Doris. Her sister, Kate, would add another Holohan presence when she later joined the Community as Sster Annata.

Doris's work in the Community is a powerful testimony to her attitude of service. For the first 10 years, Doris ministered as an elementary school teacher in Indiana and Ohio. Meanwhile, the call to be a missionary was very strong for Doris, but at first, her allergies were a deterrent to being given a mission assignment. Finally, after numerous requests, Mother Marie Dillhoff granted Doris's wish in 1965 and assigned her to the Community's mission in Papua, New Guinea. There, Doris blossomed! In time, all three Franciscan Holohan Sisters would realize their dream of missionary service in Papua, New Guinea. Doris's prior experience as an elementary teacher was put to good use as she served as primary school teacher and headmistress for her first eight years. Then, she moved to Holy Trinity Teacher's College, where she provided training for native teachers. This included directing in-service courses for headmasters and headmistresses of primary schools, while also serving as Dean of Women and later, as Assistant Principal.

Following these ministries, Doris's call to be an educator took some interesting new directions. In 1982, Doris was sent to Manila to spend eight months at the Asian Religious Formation Institute in the Philippines. This training readied her to assume the role of Novice Mistress and Director of a Diocesan national Community of religious—the Franciscan Sisters of Mary. To this day, this religious group is viewed and rightfully claimed as a "daughter community" of the Oldenburg Franciscans.

While serving as the elected Regional Coordinator of the Sisters of St. Francis in Papua New Guinea, Doris once again found herself in a new area of ministry, an educational role she loved best of all. "My favorite [ministry]

was being a Personality and Human Relations educator. . . I helped the women to develop their self-image and not be satisfied with the role assigned to them by their tribe. I did similar work when I was at the teacher's college." Together with other committee members, Doris prepared and gave workshops throughout Papua New Guinea, the surrounding islands, and in Thailand, helping men and women live more fully, no matter their level of education.

When Doris finally returned to the United States in 2011, the Franciscan Federation honored her and fellow missionary Sister Martine Mayborg as Peacemakers at their annual conference. Representing all 21 Community missionaries to Papua New Guinea, Doris and Martine exemplified the spirit of Mother Theresa Hackelmaier as they "journeyed into the unknown, carried the message, reached out by teaching. . . They shared the vision, brought life to all the places our Sisters were sent, and new hope to all the people whose lives they touched."

Doris's missionary heart kept her attentive to service wherever she could find it. In her retirement years, Doris was a pleasant hostess at the St. Clare Hall door. She also enjoyed being a Minister of Care and a Transitus Sister (sitting with dying Sisters) because she could offer personal service to others. Her interaction with Oldenburg Academy students through the Adopt-a-Sis Program brought her meaningful contact with young people, which she loved.

We offer our sincere condolences to Sister Kate Holohan, Doris's sister, to Jerry and Alta Holohan , her brother and sister-in-law, and the entire Holohan family at this time of loss. We also extend our sympathies to Doris's friends, her classmate, S. Janice Scheidler, her missionary companions, and to the nursing and pastoral care staff who provided so well for her. Doris discovered this truth about her life as a true disciple, a religious woman and a dedicated missionary: "This life gives you the chance to help people realize the beauty of who they are before God." May Doris, who helped so many find the goodness of God in themselves, now enjoy the fullness of God's beauty shining in her for eternal days!

In gratitude for this beautiful life,

S. Delouise

S. Delouise
for the Council

SISTER DORIS (*Dorothy)* HOLOHAN
Birth: April 28, 1935
Entered Religious Life: February 2, 1953
Entered Eternal Life: November 30, 2023

MISSIONS AT WHICH S. DORIS SERVED :

1954-1956	St. Mary, New Albany, Indiana	1974-1981	Mt. Hagen, New Guinea
1956-1960	St. Mary, Aurora, Indiana	1981-1982	Manila, Philippines
1960-1961	St. Louis, Batesville, Indiana	1982-1986	Kagua, New Guinea
1961-1962	St. Joseph of Nazareth, Ohio	1986-2009	Mendi, New Guinea
1962-1965	St. Joseph, Ohio	2009-2010	Medical Leave
1965-1969	Mendi, New Guinea	2010- 2023	Motherhouse
1969-1974	Kagua, New Guinea		

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Weigel Funeral Home – visit their website to view Sister's online memorial, and if desired, an online condolence may be left on the site to share with her family and the Franciscan Sisters – www.Weigelfh.com

***Memorial Donations** in Sister's memory may be given online at www.OldenburgFranciscans.org*