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

S. Gloria Kellerman

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

On Sunday night, November 2, the day on which the Church commemorates All the Faithful Departed, our dear and ever faithful Sister Gloria Kellerman departed this life and was welcomed into the loving embrace of our compassionate God for all eternity.

Gloria was born on December 20, 1931, the second of four daughters of Francis and Cecilia (Sieber) Kellerman. She grew up in Cincinnati, OH where she was taught by Sisters of Mercy and Sisters of Charity. She did admire them and felt called to be a Sister, however, early on, Gloria developed a fondness for St. Francis. She loved animals and learned that St. Francis did also. This finally led her to the Oldenburg Franciscans.

As a child, she was only familiar with Franciscan Friars and had no idea that there were Franciscan Sisters as well. Fortunately, she had an aunt who was a Third Order Secular Franciscan. This aunt shared various Franciscan activities with Gloria and eventually mentioned that there was a group of Franciscan Sisters in Oldenburg. Gloria wrote for information, which soon arrived. She was then invited to OLA to meet the Sisters who helped her prepare to enter the community.

Gloria stated in her autobiography that "Leaving my little sisters was the hardest thing I gave up in entering the convent, but I was blessed later with many little ones in the classroom." Indeed, she spent 40 years teaching first graders and "loved it, just like I had loved playing school with my little sisters."

In 1992, Gloria switched from teaching little ones to teaching adults in a GED program. She did this until she retired to the Motherhouse in 2004. During these years, I was privileged to do visitation with Gloria in her apartment home. I have told many people over the years that Gloria's apartment was the simplest of any apartment of any Sister I had ever seen. She had only the bare essentials, but was not interested in accumulating anything else. She didn't drive but was happy to ride the bus to work. On Sundays, she would take the bus to visit the Cincinnati Zoo, spending hours watching the various animals. She developed a special affection for the gorillas with all their antics and was later given a stuffed gorilla as a Christmas gift from her sisters. She requested that Lwanga be buried with her.

As Gloria moved back to the motherhouse, it was suggested to her that S. Jean Sora might appreciate a companion spending time with her. Gloria graciously took on this ministry which led to a deep and lasting friendship. They spent many hours together each day sharing stories, jokes, television programs and Cincinnati Reds ball games. Now, Gloria is finally reunited with her dear friend, Jean.

Gloria was a woman of prayer. She was especially devoted to the Blessed Mother and the rosary. She stated "I decided to say rosaries. I couldn't do big things, but in the quiet of Oldenburg's chapels, I could recite my rosary. Whenever I became anxious, I'd say the rosary for the needed intentions. Then peace of mind would come."

We are grateful that Gloria is no longer anxious about anything and is united with her friend Jean and her deceased family members. We thank the nursing and pastoral care staffs of St. Clare Hall for their loving care of Gloria. We will miss seeing her cuddle with her baby gorilla, enjoying her occasional McDonald's hamburger and praying her rosaries. May we all imitate her love for her Creator, for St. Francis, for the little children of the world and for all the animals God created. May she inspire us to live simply and to take "joy in simple things" as we state in our Vision and Journey.

In loving memory,

S. Maureen Irvin, OSF

S. Maureen Irvin for the Leadership Team

Sister Gloria Kellerman (formerly S. Francis Cecile)

Born: December 20, 1931
Entered Religious Life: September 10, 1949
Died: November 2, 2025

Missions where S. Gloria served:

1951-1952	St. Bernard, Winton Place, Cincinnati OH
1952-1954	Immaculate Conception, Old Monroe MO
1954-1958	Holy Name, Beech Grove IN
1958-1959	St. Mary, Evansville IN
1959-1962	St. Peter, Hamilton OH
1962-1967	St. Anthony, Streator IL
1967-1971	St. Bartholomew, Cincinnati OH
1971-1977	St. Xavier, MT
1977-1980	St. Michael, Charlestown IN
1980-1983	St. Lawrence, Indianapolis IN
1983-1992	St. Mary, Greensburg IN
1992-2004	Adult Education Center, Cincinnati OH
2004-2025	Motherhouse, Oldenburg IN

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*