



Sr. Mary Catherine Eschenbach, O.S.F.

FEB 12, 1924 - FEB 12, 2017



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Sr. Mary Catherine Eschenbach, O.S.F.

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Sr. Mary Catherine Eschenbach, age 93 of the Srs. of St. Francis in Oldenburg, died Sunday, February 12, 2017 at the convent. Born February 15, 1923 in Indianapolis, she is the daughter of Cecilia (Nee: Johantgen) and Carl Eschenbach Sr. Sr. Mary Catherine entered the convent September 8, 1939 and made her final vows August 12, 1945. She was a teacher, principal and a missionary in Papua New Guinea. Schools included St. Louis in Batesville, St. Frances de Sales and St. Michael's in Indianapolis, St. Lawrence in St. Lawrenceburg, Indiana, St. Vincent de Paul in Bedford, Indiana, St. Ann's in Hamilton, Ohio, St. Anthony's in Streator, Illinois, Immaculate Conception in Old Monroe, Missouri as well as 15 years in Papua New Guinea before retiring to the Motherhouse in 1998.

Attending St. Catherine's and St. Mary's Academy in Indianapolis, she was taught by the sisters of Oldenburg. One of the sisters she met was instrumental in her choice to enter religious life. After her sophomore year, she entered the novitiate program at Oldenburg. In her first year as a novice, her father died and her mother was the expecting the families' seventh child. Sr. Mary Catherine offered to abandon her religious calling and return home to help with the family. Her mother said, "Stay and pray, we'll make it."

A dedicated teacher, she taught for 20 years, teaching almost every grade and then spent 20 years as a principal. In 1960 the first group of sisters left for Papua New Guinea. While she too wanted to minister in this foreign land, she stayed stateside for her aging mother. After many years, she still felt the desire to go, so she asked her mother's permission. Mom's answer was, "Go, I'll visit you." And she did at age 86! In her words, "I was a pilgrim in a foreign land, teaching at the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, the Teacher's College, two seminaries and with the Capuchin Brothers. I've gone where there was a need. All my life has been a challenge and I've enjoyed the challenges. I've been happy and enjoyed the journey as I walked trustfully with the



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Lord.”

Sr. Mary Catherine is survived by her sisters Angela Kriese and Leanore Cox, both of Indianapolis as well as numerous nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she is also preceded in death by sisters Mildred Rambow, Florence Eschenbach, Carlann Richardson and brother Carl Eschenbach Jr.

Visitation is Wednesday, February 15th, from 1 – 3 p.m. at the convent chapel.

Funeral services follow at 3 p.m. with Rev. Bob Weakley officiating. Burial will be in the convent cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Srs. of St. Francis, P.O. Box 100, Oldenburg, IN, 47036 (www.OldenburgFranciscans.org).



Tribute Wall

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AF

Ann Werner Of Florida posted:

MC was among the 'giants' in my opinion. Loved her ready laughter, common sense/no nonsense tackling of everyday issues, love of sport, and gentle, generous living of community life. A favorite memory is of climbing fences with her in PNG 20 years ago.

February 13 at 8:00 PM

BI

Beatrice Drics-Bursten Of Indianapolis posted:

Sr. Mary Catherine was the principal at St. Michael's in Indianapolis during my time there as a student. I will always remember Friday afternoons after recess going into church to learn new songs for Mass. Sr. Mary Catherine had a record player setup on the ambo with the various songs we were supposed to learn for that day. Although never a great singer, that never stopped Sister from enthusiastically leading the effort to learn the songs. I did see her just a couple of years ago at an event at Cardinal Ritter High School and she looked great. Rest In God's eternal peace now.

February 13 at 8:00 PM

MI

Marianne Schafer Ries Of Indianapolis posted:

Dear Aunt Angie, Aunt Leanore, Brett and all the Kriese clan: I am sorry for your loss of Sister. I had no idea she was such a rounder, so travelled and so giving and so faithful. Surely God has been perfectly pleased by all Sister has done for so many. She now sees the face of God and so many of her family, after all these years. God blest all of you, in your relationship with Sister. My father, Bob Schafer, many times said Mary Catherine could play baseball better than any guy her age. Rest in Peace Sisster. Prayers and hugs, Marianne

February 13 at 8:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Sr. by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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