



IN MEMORIAM

Frances Wenzel

May 19, 1933 – October 9, 2024

Fran was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. Her parents both immigrated to the United States. Her mom was Catholic and came to the U.S. from Hungary in 1903 and her dad was Lutheran immigrating from Austria in 1922. Fran had one sister and one brother. She was baptized Lutheran, and her parents would alternate between the Catholic and Lutheran Church for Sunday services. Fran converted to Catholicism in 1944 and attended Catholic grade school.

While attending Jones Commercial High School in Chicago, Fran worked at different jobs, but they weren't right for her. After graduation, she joined the Teamsters Union and worked for over thirty years in the trucking industry.

After retiring she volunteered at Brookfield Zoo as a docent for thirteen years. As a docent, after six months of training, Fran was able to interact with the visitors and speak about every animal (three hundred species) in the zoo. She especially enjoyed speaking to the children. On her associate data sheet Fran stated, "I have a love for animals as St. Francis had, and hoped to pass this love and caring for animals to the young people. To love them as children, they would continue their love and protection of the animals as St. Francis did." Through the years, Fran enjoyed the company of her many pets including D.C. the Cat.

In 2003, Fran moved to Crest Hill. A neighbor invited her to Mass at Our Lady of Angels and Fran found her home. She attended daily Mass and enjoyed her friendship with our sisters living at OLA. Fran shared her love for baking and would regularly bring treats to the residents. Fran felt they taught her about the Franciscan way of life, prayer and sharing. After many years of involvement with our OLA sisters, Fran made her commitment to the associate relationship in 2013.

We are grateful for the years Fran spent as an Associate and friend to our Congregation. She now enjoys the presence of God whom she loved and served.