

# We of Nojoshing

Nojoshing – Indian word for the area where our pioneer members settled in 1849; it means "piece of land stretching into the water."  
The name was changed later to Saint Francis, Wisconsin.



Newsletter of The New Assisi Archives

THE SISTERS of ST. FRANCIS of ASSISI, 3221 South Lake Drive, Saint Francis, WI 53235-3799

## **We celebrate the memory of our beloved Sister Kathleen Jansen** *formerly Sister Albert Mary* **January 11, 1941 – June 11, 2025**

Sister Kathleen was born in St. Paul, Minn., to Albert and Mildred (Davy) Jansen, the oldest of three children. She would later have a younger brother and a sister. Her family belonged to St. John's parish in Little Canada, Minn., where she became acquainted with our Sisters. Sister Natalie Aldrich (†1999) encouraged her to become an aspirant after eighth grade graduation, but her mother wanted her to wait until after high school. In the end she came as an aspirant to our congregation in 1954 and completed high school at St. Mary's Academy.

In 1958, Kathleen became a postulant and in 1959 she became a novice and received the name Sister Albert Mary. After Vatican Council II, she resumed her baptismal name.

Sister Kathleen professed vows in 1961 and began her teaching ministry. For the next five years, she taught intermediate grades at St. Agnes and St. Gerard parishes in Milwaukee. In 1968, she was a full-time student at Cardinal Stritch University and completed her bachelor's degree in 1969. Following graduation, she taught for four years at St. Andrew School in Delavan, Wis.

Sister Kathleen made a transition to special education in 1973 at St. Coletta of Wisconsin in Jefferson, Wis. While teaching in the school program, she took classes at Cardinal Stritch University and completed a master's degree in special education in 1975.

During her 30 years at St. Coletta, Sister Kathleen served in various positions: as a teacher, director of Adult Programs, residential supervisor, worker in communications, and in transportation. As fleet manager, she was responsible for keeping records of the St. Coletta vehicles. She drove for both medical and vocational trips and, beginning in 1997, was the coordinator of air travel.

Paperwork was not her strength because interacting with others came first. She was generous with her time. Sister Kathleen loved the clients and the clients loved her. She was a strong advocate for them but rarely spoke up for herself. In describing herself, she wrote that an interest of hers was conversing with friends, family, and all at St. Coletta; and a major skill was being person-oriented. This was balanced by her love of reading, walks, listening to music, and special prayer times and homilies.

Reflecting on her 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of religious profession in 2011, Sister Kathleen wrote: “Sharing community life with so many Sisters has been one of God’s special blessings. I appreciate an education that enabled me to minister in a variety of ministries. Helping developmentally challenged persons to enjoy a richer and more stable life has been most rewarding.”

Sister Kathleen moved to Milwaukee in 2003. After a sabbatical year, she worked for Catholic Charities in supportive living situations until her retirement in 2011. In 2019, she moved to the new St. Francis Convent.

She experienced declining health in the following years, and God called her into eternal life on June 11, 2025. Sister Kathleen had been in hospice at St. Francis Convent and Father Tom Suriano anointed her on June 6. At the time of her death, the Sisters who had just attended Mass in San Damiano Chapel were receiving the anointing of the sick by Father Chuck Schram.

*“Whoever serves me must follow me; and wherever I am, my servant also will be. My father will honor the one who serves me.” John 12:26*

*†Sister Marie Colette Roy, OSF and Sister Marcia Lunz, OSF*