

# 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 St. Francis, Wisconsin.



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

## We celebrate the memory of our beloved Sister Mary Senglaub *formerly Sister Stephen Marie* September 21, 1932 – November 15, 2021

Sister Mary was born in Milwaukee, Wis., to Oswald and Marie (Rodenkirch) Senglaub. Mary had two brothers and a sister. Her mother's sister, Sr. Carol Rodenkirch (†1988), was a member of our community. Mary graduated from St. Mary's Academy prior to entering our congregation on September 8, 1950, and became a novice on August 11, 1951. She received the name Sister Stephen Marie but resumed her baptismal name after Vatican Council II.

As a second-year novice, Sister Mary taught music part-time at St. Sebastian school in Milwaukee. After profession of vows in 1953, she continued teaching music at St. Sebastian for six more years and then was transferred to St. Veronica school on the south side of Milwaukee. During these years of teaching, she continued to work on her bachelor's degree in piano at Cardinal Stritch University and graduated in 1964. Her next assignment took her to St. Anthony Parish in Sterling, Colo., for the next six years. This was followed by ten years of teaching at Assumption High School in Wisconsin Rapids. Studying part time, she finished a master's degree in music education at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1971.

Sister Mary subsequently served at St. Patrick Parish in Dixon, Ill. (twice, with her last year the second time as choral teacher at Newman High School) and at St. Mary's Springs High School in Fond du Lac, Wis. From 1988-1993, she taught music at Cardinal Stritch University and then became the liturgist and music coordinator for St. Anthony Parish, Casper, Wyo. In 1996, she completed certification in liturgical studies at the University of Notre Dame in summer sessions. In 2000, she was the Music Coordinator in Rifle, Colo., for St. Mary Parish and its mission parishes until her retirement to Tucson, Ariz., in 2003. Declining health necessitated returning to St. Francis Convent in Milwaukee in December of 2020.

In every aspect of her life, Sister Mary was spontaneous, loved to connect with family, friends, Sisters in the community. She was faithful in nurturing relationships, e.g., connecting with classmates from kindergarten just a few years ago. She loved to travel; and her annual Christmas letters, sent to about 300 persons each year, detail multiple excursions, short and long, in every letter.

Her students participated in choirs, choruses, recitals, seasonal programs/concerts, and musicals which sometimes included Broadway shows. Depending on where she was ministering, preparing students and adults for liturgical functions would be in addition to her school endeavors.

Sister Mary embraced retirement wholeheartedly and reveled in the time she had to pursue activities of her choosing. In Tucson she sang in the Tucson Masterworks Chorale and the diocesan choir. She ushered for the Tucson Opera, Symphony and Rodeo! Volunteer work included taking Communion to the homebound, being a lector at Mass, and chauffeuring persons needing a ride. Getting together with other OSFs and Sisters from other congregations was a highlight for her.

In Sister Mary's spontaneous manner, she was called home to God very unexpectedly and peacefully the morning of November 15, 2021. Sister Ruth Mary Costello and nursing staff were with her.

Sister Mary's reflection in 2013, when she celebrated her 60<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of profession, expressed her gratitude and joy. "God has been so good to me! 60 years of love and fidelity – always here when I am in need. My Franciscan family has always supported, helped, rejoiced and grieved with me, as well as my birth family. I am blessed!"

One of Sister Mary's favorite psalms was Psalm 100. With her may we: "Make a joyful noise to the Lord. . ."

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