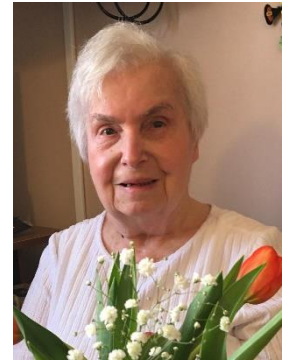




Sister M. Sophie Hofmann, O.P.



April 10, 1936 – February 2, 2025

Sister Sophie (Ottilie Mathilde) Hofmann was born in Flörsheim am Main, Germany on April 10, 1936. With her birth, her parents, Kasper and Agathe (Wetzel) Hofmann welcomed their third child, and the third girl into the world.

Sister Sophie was baptized and confirmed at her home parish, St. Gallus, in Flörsheim. Like her sisters, Katharina and Angela, Sister Sophie attended Flörsheim elementary school for eight years, then the Berufsschule in Frankfurt for four years. Sister Sophie then apprenticed at a dry-cleaning business in Frankfurt. She returned to Flörsheim, and worked at the Marienkrankenhaus in Flörsheim from 1959 to 1960, where her mother was employed. It was there that she met and worked with the Oakford Dominican Sisters.

Discerning a call to religious life, Sister Sophie entered with the Oakford Dominicans in Neustadt on January 1, 1960. After her Novitiate, she made her First Profession on October 10, 1961. Her first assignment was to Frekenhorst from February to October 1962. There her ability to cook was very helpful as she worked in the kitchen to feed the children and the Sisters. She was then missioned to the United States, to St. Albert's Priory in Oakland, California, where a new foundation had been started in 1955. Her work was in the basement laundry and in the kitchen; she learned English along the way. During this time, she made her Final Profession on October 10, 1964, in the chapel of St. Albert's Priory with only the Sisters present. Little by little, through her hard work and loving, prayerful support for the Dominican men in formation, she developed friendships which would last all her life.

During her years at St. Albert's she developed a love for playing the guitar and singing. She also enjoyed photography of sunsets and ocean scenes. She learned to drive. She made plant hangings with macramé and worked on latch hook rugs.

She enjoyed planting and tending flowers in the garden, and indoors, kept orchids blooming.

The US Region was in a time of development, and Sister Sophie was called to Villa Siena in Mountain View to help in the garden and with the elderly Residents for a time. She returned to St. Albert's to help in the kitchen and laundry. She was flexible, mobile, and helpful wherever she was needed.

In 1986, Sister Sophie was offered a nine-month sabbatical at our Casa di Studio in Rome. This was a highlight in her life. She took in the various lectures and enjoyed being part of the international community there. She had the opportunity to go to the Holy Land; she walked in the footsteps of St. Dominic, visiting France and Spain. She took pictures of everything and created a packed photo album that she treasured and shared.

In 1995, the decision was made to withdraw the Sisters from St. Albert's Priory in Oakland. The Sisters had served for forty (40) years and given of themselves generously. Sister Sophie was asked to go to the newly-opened House of Formation in San Leandro, and she felt she could be helpful there. She was also encouraged to consider ministry outside of the Formation House, and applied to be a caregiver for the elderly who wanted to stay in their homes. She enjoyed this new form of service and developed good relationships with those she cared for.

In August 2003, while completing an overnight shift, Sister Sophie suffered a severe stroke which affected her right side. After a year and a half of battling various medical complications, attempting rehab programs, and living in a care center, hoping to return to the San Leandro community, Sister Sophie was accepted into St. Martin's Residence with the Mission San Jose Dominican Sisters in December 2004. Sister Sophie flourished and improved with the physical therapy she received, the religious environment which became home, and the loving acceptance she experienced by the Mission San Jose Sisters.

Sister Sophie improved in her ability to walk with a cane, and gained some independence. She also began to color with colored pencils, and soon she had not only coloring books for adults in abundance, but her own desk for her artwork!

For many years, she was the only Oakford Sister at St. Martin's. Oakford Sisters visited her and even brought her "home" to San Leandro for monthly weekends. Eventually Sister Assunta Vorndran and Sister Dolores Renkel also came to St. Martin's. The Area's life evolved, and by 2020 there were five Oakford Sisters

who created community together with the Mission San Jose Sisters at St. Martin's.

In January 2025, Sister Sophie developed a fever caused by an infection in her digestive tract. Not wanting surgery, a regimen of antibiotics was tried, which helped for a week. However, the fever returned, the infection reasserted itself, and Sister Sophie accepted comfort care. She died in the hospital, in the presence of Sister Mary, on Sunday morning, February 2nd. It was the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life.

"Set me like a seal on your heart,

Like a seal on your arm.

Set me like a seal on your heart;

How right it is to love you.

How right it is to love you."

Song of Songs 8:6B "Set Me Like a Seal" by Carey Landry