

## *Edna May Knox, OFS*



*Edna as a Toddler in 1898*

Edna May (Clark) Knox, OFS, was born on September Sept 15, 1889 and was part of a *very* Franciscan family – both her daughter, Dorothy Johnson was a Secular Franciscan, as is her granddaughter, Carol (Johnson) Imhoff. Edna was received into Secular Franciscan Formation, at the time called the ‘Novitiate,’ on May 28th 1922 when she was 33 years old. Edna was professed on June 10th, 1923. Edna became a Member of San Luis Rey Fraternity when it was founded in 1952, after having been affiliated with a fraternity in Los Angeles for nearly 30 years.

Edna passed into eternal life in 1964 after a long struggle with lymphocytic leukemia. Edna is buried at the Mission San Luis Rey Cemetery.

Edna lived at her home (right) on Lincoln Street in Carlsbad from 1925 until her death in 1964. The home had a beautiful garden and lath, a ‘shade’ house for her plants. Edna treasured her garden full of flowers and various plants as God’s gifts which she cared for with love. Edna’s granddaughter, Carol (Johnson) Imhoff and siblings, and their mom, Edna’s daughter, Dorothy Johnson – all lived here with Edna, in Grandma’s little house on Lincoln Street.



*Edna’s Home on Lincoln Street in Carlsbad*

Edna’s granddaughter, Carol Imhoff, remembers Edna as always attending Secular Franciscan gatherings even when she eventually became elderly and frail. The only thing that would eventually curtail her active participation in her Franciscan community was being hospitalized during the last few months of her life. Even then, she always held her Franciscan community lovingly in prayer.

Carol recalls being a small child and sitting at the foot of her Grandma Edna’s bed listening to her talk about St. Francis and ‘Mother,’ Mary for hours and learning about the Third Order of St. Francis, now called the ‘Secular Franciscan Order’. Carol also learned the importance of prayer. Prayer was always an essential part of Edna’s life; even when homebound due to illness, Edna prayed the Divine Office which (was then in Latin) every day. She also regularly prayed novenas and devotions for the welfare of the poor souls in Purgatory and also for our

Lord's divine assistance for her beloved Secular Franciscan Order. Edna went to Mass as often as she could and *never* missed on Sundays and or Holy days – leaving a beautiful and inspirational example for all. For Edna, Mass and her commitment to the Secular Franciscan Order were of paramount importance in her life.

Some of the things Carol Johnson Imhoff remembers as a child while living at the home on Lincoln street with her Grandmother (Edna Knox) and her mother (Dorothy Johnson) along with her siblings are:

- Heating water in a kettle for bathing and washing clothes (and using a washboard)
- Sprinkling clothes with water from a soda bottle with a special 'sprinkling' cap.
- Walking to church on Sundays.
- Edna's four grandchildren sleeping in one 8x10 room, two to a bunk.
- Listening to Grandma Edna talk about knitting socks for our soldiers in the dark, due to having to limit light usage at night during the war.
- Collecting postage stamps from around the world.
- Having a Nativity scene that took up the entire top of a large old-fashioned desk.

There was such excitement in the family when Edna's daughter, Dorothy, received both her driver's license and began her teaching career. The family suspected that the excitement about that driver's license was actually that Dorothy could now drive her mom, Edna, to Mass. As Edna got older, it was getting very difficult for her to walk the ½ mile to her parish church in Carlsbad, St. Patrick's (at the time located on Harding Street) from her happy little family home on Lincoln Street.

Edna Knox, OFS, had been a member of the San Luis Rey Secular Franciscan Fraternity since 1952 when the Mission San Luis Rey would have looked very similar to this image from the 1960's. Edna is buried in the cemetery adjacent to the Mission.



*Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside, CA (circa 1960)*

*Eternal rest, grant unto Edna, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.  
May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God,  
rest in peace.  
Amen.*