



SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

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WWW.OLDENBURGFRAUCISCANS.ORG



April 11, 2023

Dear Sisters and Associates, Co-workers, Family, and Friends,

On the evening of Good Friday, April 7, 2023, Sister Rachel Lindenmaier died peacefully at Christ Hospital in Cincinnati, where she had been taken for tests just that afternoon. In our Good Friday Service at Oldenburg, we prayed together for those who would die this day, but we did not realize that Rachel was to be among them. May she now be one with Jesus in the grace of resurrection.

Rachel was the fourth child of Alma (Burkhart) and Sylvester Lindenmaier. The older two children were boys, Norbert and Arnold. They were followed by twin girls, Evelyn and Rachel, born June 20, 1936. Rachel often joked about pushing Evelyn from the womb, so she had some time alone with her mother. She described their family home as a loving one, saying that she never heard her parents argue. "They were good people. They both went through some hardships. Dad lost his first wife after two months of marriage, and my mom's fiancé was killed in a train accident. "

When asked about her parents' professions, Rachel wrote that her father's occupation was an "Ice cream maker and wonderful dad." Likewise, her mother's occupation was listed as "housewife and wonderful mother." She credits her parents with instilling in her a love of prayer. They prayed the family rosary every night, "and when my brothers went to the Korean War, we added more and more prayers." Her parents also prayed that if someone in the family had a vocation to religious life, they would answer the call.

Rachel's father started an ice cream business in Indianapolis called the Blue Ribbon Ice Cream. Rachel and Evelyn enjoyed time there with their father, where they were allowed to sample all the new flavors. Always a hard worker, as a child Rachel carried papers, worked for a truck farmer, cleaned houses, and mowed grass.

She attended grade school at Sacred Heart and St. Rock schools in Indianapolis, and then St John's High school. After graduation, Rachel worked for a year at Ellis Trucking Company. She knew she wanted to enter religious life, but she did not know that Evelyn was thinking the same thing. Rachel said she was drawn by the example of her aunt, Sister Leona Burkhart, who was an Oldenburg Franciscan. She also noted that she wanted to join the Franciscans because they were happy and fun-loving. She was delighted to learn that she and Evelyn would be entering the Community together in 1955. When their mother was asked if it wasn't difficult to have both daughters leave home and enter the convent, her response was, "My children were on loan from God, not mine to keep."

Rachel received her bachelor's degree in education from Marian College (now Marian University). She taught grade school for thirty-four years, primarily in inner city schools in Indianapolis and Cincinnati. She later had other ministries, but when asked if she had a favorite ministry, she responded, "I found that teaching the economically disadvantaged was so gratifying, because the students really wanted to learn. Being in those schools also gave me the opportunity to serve the people in ways that were beyond the classroom. I learned so much from the people about spirituality."

Rachel enjoyed those “beyond the classroom” forms of ministry. “We took communion to those who were shut-ins. Sometimes we mowed grass and took care of someone’s garden when they were not able or did repairs for them.” Rachel was gifted in repair work, earning her the reputation in the Community as “Sister Fix-it.”

When she knew it was time to retire from teaching, Rachel did tele-ministry at St. Anthony Messenger in Cincinnati, and later was invited to work in the Friars Vocation Office. In both positions she learned that her natural gift for gab could also be a welcome form of ministry, especially when speaking on the phone with someone confined to his/her home.

When she moved home to Oldenburg, she became the Housekeeping Supervisor. Always generous with her time and skills, Rachel also drove Sisters to appointments and helped repair things for them. In her retirement years, she and Evelyn enjoyed crafts and could often be found together in their woodworking shop.

We offer our deepest sympathy to Evelyn, her twin and dearest friend, to her brother, Norbert, and the extended family, her classmates and friends, and the nurses and aides who cared for her and enjoyed her.

In gratitude for Rachel’s generous nature, ready smile, and love of a good time,



S. Barbara Leonhard
For the General Council

Sister Rachel Lindenmaier

Birth: 06-20-1936

Entrance into Community: 09-08-1955

Entrance into Eternal Life: 04-07-2023

Ministries where S. Rachel served:

1959-1964	St. Gabriel	Connersville, IN	1984-1990	St. Aloysius	Bridgetown, OH
1964-1965	St. Francis	Cincinnati, OH	1990-1992	St. Boniface	Cincinnati, OH
1965-1970	St. Joseph	Cincinnati, OH	1992-1994	Fifth/Third Bank	Cincinnati, OH
1970-1971	St. Lawrence	Lawrenceburg, IN	1994-2001	St. Anthony Messenger	Cincinnati, OH
1971-1975	St. Joseph	Cincinnati, OH	2001-2003	Franciscan Friars Vocation Office	
1975-1976	Sacred Heart	Clinton, IN			Cincinnati, OH
1976-1980	St. Rita	Indianapolis, IN	2003-2009	Housekeeping Ministry	Oldenburg, IN
1980-1984	St. Christopher	Indianapolis, IN	2009-2023	Motherhouse	Oldenburg, IN

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Weigel Funeral Home – visit their website to view Sister’s online memorial, and if desired, an online condolence may be left on the site to share with her family and the Franciscan Sisters – www.Weigelfh.com.

Memorial Donations in Sister’s memory may be given online at www.OldenburgFranciscans.org