



## SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

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FACEBOOK: FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF OLDENBURG



S. MARY LAUREL HAUTMAN, OSF

August 4, 2016

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

In her autobiography, Sister Mary Laurel Hautman wrote that one of her favorite images of God was that of a gentle breeze. She referred to the scripture passage where Elijah looked for God and finally came to know God in the gentle whisper (1Kings 19:11-13). At 2:45 AM on Sunday July 31, 2016, Mary Laurel heard God's whisper and peacefully completed her journey home. She can now truly proclaim that God is the wind beneath her wings!

Mary Laurel was born on October 16, 1934 to Louis and Verena (Kopp) Hautman. She was named to honor the Blessed Mother (Mary) and after her mother's close friend (Laurel). She was welcomed by four older brothers who were very excited to have a baby sister. She noted in her autobiography that she loved her brothers very much and was sure that they spoiled her. Even though she was born at the end of the great depression when money was tight, she never felt deprived.

Mary Laurel described her parents as very religious and noted that her dad considered the Franciscans of Oldenburg to be the very best educators. He encouraged her to attend Immaculate Conception Academy for her high school years. She loved her studies and classmates at ICA but found it difficult to be away from home. After two years as a boarding student, she decided to finish out her high school years as a five-day student. This allowed her to spend weekends at home with her parents and brothers.

The idea of a religious vocation surfaced in her junior year in high school. Mary Laurel discerned her call with S. Rosemary Schroeder, one of her teachers and role models at ICA. She entered the community on September 8, 1952. Despite bouts of extreme homesickness, Mary Laurel was faithful to her call and she professed final vows in 1958.

Mary Laurel spent 30 years as a grade school teacher in Indiana, Illinois and Ohio. She loved teaching and quipped that her favorite grade to teach was first grade because of the enthusiasm and excitement of the students. Mary Laurel also served as an Assistant Principal and a school secretary before she ministered as a Pastoral Associate.

In 1996, Mary Laurel and Judith Werner were asked by the Leadership Team to serve in the Communications and Public Relations department for the Community. They agreed to co-direct the two departments and served in these roles until 2002. At that time, Mary Laurel went to Prayer Lodge in Montana for a sabbatical. Her time immersed in nature and interacting with the Native American people left a lasting impression on her.

Mary Laurel truly loved ministering to, and building relationships with, people of all ages. Each of her ministries deepened her relationship with her God. She proclaims this truth in the second reading she chose for her funeral liturgy. This reading from our Constitution, *Vision and Journey*, states: "In whatever we do, we enter with our own human brokenness into communion with others and speak a word of hope.

We serve in love, respecting, without distinction, each person we meet.” We are grateful to Mary Laurel for witnessing that love, that respect and that hope to each of us.

We extend our sympathy to Mary Laurel’s family, particularly her sister-in-law Joan and her nieces and nephews. We offer our condolences to her classmates: Sisters Mary Paul Larson, Myra Peine, Marietta Sharkey, Doris Holohan and Janice Scheidler. We promise prayers and support to all of her friends, especially S. Judith Werner and Shirley Beeler.

We are grateful for all who cared for Mary Laurel, including the wonderful St. Clare Hall nursing staff and the pastoral care team.

As we remember Mary Laurel and celebrate all that she taught us, let us keep in mind the words that she chose for the first reading at her funeral liturgy ~ the words she practiced throughout her life: “This is what God asks of you – to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)

Thank you for loving us, Mary Laurel, and for helping us to listen to the gentle voice of God within and around us.

Gratefully,



Sister Mary Beth Gianoli  
*for the General Council*

#### S. MARY LAUREL HAUTMAN, OSF (FORMERLY S. LOUAN)

Birth: October 16, 1934  
Entrance into Religious Life: September 8, 1952  
Entrance into Eternal Life: July 31, 2016

#### MISSIONS AT WHICH S. MARY LAUREL SERVED:

1954-1955	Holy Family, Richmond, IN
1955-1964	St. Anthony, Streator, IL
1964-1965	Our Lady of Mercy, Dayton, OH
1965-1970	Our Lady of Victory, Cincinnati, OH
1970-1981	St. James, White Oak, Cincinnati, OH
1981-1984	St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Cincinnati, OH
1984-1987	Our Lady of Lourdes, Cincinnati, OH
1987-1988	Medical Sabbatical
1988-1996	St. Bonaventure Parish, Cincinnati, OH
1996-2002	Communications Co-Director, Oldenburg, IN
2002-2003	Sabbatical
2004-2006	Volunteer-JPIC Office/Michaela Farm, Oldenburg, IN
2006-2012	Volunteer-Development Office, Oldenburg, IN
2012-2016	Retired, Batesville, IN
2016-2016	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](http://www.Weigelfh.com)*

*Memorial Donations in Sister’s memory may be given online at [www.OldenburgFranciscans.org](http://www.OldenburgFranciscans.org)*