



SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

PO BOX 100 OLDENBURG, IN 47036

WWW.OLDENBURGFRAUCISCANS.ORG

FACEBOOK: FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF OLDENBURG



S. CONSTANCE SMITH, OSF

February 3, 2014

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

Sister Constance Smith went peacefully home to God at 9:15 A.M. on Saturday, February 1. After years of declining health, Constance was ready to leave behind her fragile body and go home to her God.

Constance (Loretta), the fourth of nine children born to Arthur and Teresa Smith, was born in Batesville on November 28, 1922. In her autobiography Constance said that, as the oldest girl, she often helped with the care of her younger brothers and sisters.

Constance attended Catholic schools all her life and was taught by the Sisters of St. Francis from first grade through college. After graduating from the Academy, she enrolled at Marian College (now Marian University). Her desire was to be a teacher. She stated that she worked every job she could to pay for her education.

Having two aunts (Sisters Eymard and Antoinette Miller) in the community and having been taught by the Sisters, she wondered about entering the convent. It seemed a logical choice, but she wanted to be sure before she took that step. She spent two years at Marian and worked at a drug store in Cincinnati before she entered the Community on September 15, 1942.

After entrance, Constance began her teaching career in grade school and attended Marian on weekends and during the summer. She received her Bachelor's Degree in 1948. She later continued her studies at Xavier University, receiving her Master of Science degree in 1959. She also studied at Cornell University and frequently participated in National Science Foundation programs at various colleges and universities.

Constance most likely learned her love for education from the Sisters who taught her throughout the years. She listed teaching and tutoring as experiences that had been most meaningful during her life. Her wit and down-to-earth approach made math and science interesting and understandable. Her patience and generous spirit helped many students. She loved teaching and her students loved her.

Constance was an amazing woman who related to others with honesty and humor. Her upbeat manner and infectious laughter turned every gathering into a celebration. Constance loved her God, her Franciscan Sisters and Associates, her family and her many friends.

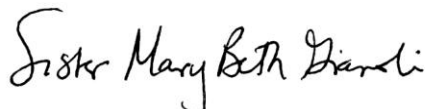
We extend our sympathy to Sister Constance's family, especially her brother Norbert, her sisters Mildred and Mary Jo, her sister-in-law, brother-in-law and many nieces and nephews. We offer our support and prayers to Constance's classmates: Sisters Justin Louise Stiker, Jean Sora, Dominica Doyle and Francis Ann Lewis as well as all of her Sisters, Associates, and friends.

We are grateful for all who cared for Constance over the years, especially the wonderful nursing staff and the pastoral care team.

The opening song Constance chose for her funeral liturgy is *Be Not Afraid*. As we remember and celebrate her, we can see how those words reflect her life. They are her promise and prayer for us.

Thank you for all that you taught us, Constance! Your graceful acceptance of who you were is a gift to each of us. We are truly blessed to have known and loved you. May you enjoy eternal happiness and rest in peace.

Gratefully,



S. Mary Beth Gianoli, OSF
for the General Council

S. CONSTANCE (LORETTA) SMITH, OSF

Birth: November 28, 1922

Entrance into Religious Life: September 15, 1942

Entrance into Eternal Life: February 1, 2014

MISSIONS AT WHICH S. CONSTANCE SERVED:

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| 1944-1946 | Holy Trinity, St. Louis, MO |
| 1946-1947 | Our Lady of Mercy, Dayton, OH |
| 1947-1956 | St. Mary Academy, Indianapolis, IN |
| 1956-1962 | Immaculate Conception Academy, Oldenburg, IN |
| 1962-1966 | Seccina High School, Indianapolis, IN |
| 1966-1969 | Fenwick, Middletown, OH |
| 1969-1974 | Immaculate Conception Academy, Oldenburg, IN |
| 1974-1988 | Fenwick, Middletown, OH |
| 1988-1990 | Motherhouse, Oldenburg (Minister to retired) |
| 1990-1990 | Scarlet Oaks Vocational School, Cincinnati, OH |
| 1991-1991 | Motherhouse, Oldenburg, IN |
| 1991-1997 | Immaculate Conception Academy, Oldenburg, IN |
| 1997-2014 | Motherhouse, Oldenburg, IN |

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Weigel Funeral Home – visit their website to view Sister's online memorial, and if you so desire, 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