



## SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

PO BOX 100 OLDENBURG, IN 47036

WWW.OLDENBURGFRAUCISCANS.ORG

FACEBOOK: FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF OLDENBURG



March 11, 2014

Dear Sisters, Associates, Family and Co-Workers,

S. LAURITA KROGER, OSF

Shortly before midnight, on March 9, the first Sunday of Lent, with Sisters praying at her bedside, our dear Sister Laurita Kroger passed peacefully from this life to embrace her eternal Easter. She was 99 years old and had spent almost 78 years as a Sister of St. Francis.

S. Laurita (Ruth Katherine) was the sixth of ten children (six boys and four girls) born to Joseph and Katherine Kroger of Dayton, Ohio. Her father, who owned the Standard Seed Company, died suddenly in 1924, leaving her mother with nine children, ranging in age from two to sixteen years old. Ruth attended Catholic grade and high schools in Dayton, where she was taught by the Sisters of Notre Dame and the Oldenburg Franciscans. After high school, she was planning to enter the convent. Her older sister, Margaret, had recently married and moved away. Ruth overheard her mother saying that she could not bear having another daughter leave home so soon. Ruth decided to stay in Dayton, take a secretarial course and work for the family business for four years.

On October 2, 1936, Ruth entered the Sisters of St. Francis. She was given the religious name of S. Laurita and professed her perpetual vows on the Feast of St. Clare of Assisi, August 12, 1942. S. Laurita said she chose the Franciscans because at St. Anthony School, she had found them friendly, cheerful, concerned and willing to take time to talk with her. She always gave praise and thanks to God for her Franciscan vocation.

Laurita could be very serious and business-like in her ministries of teaching, on the General Council of the community and as treasurer of Marian College (now Marian University). She spoke her mind in community meetings and gatherings, was knowledgeable and forward-looking. She also had a fun-loving side and could tease and play tricks (a skill she learned from her brothers). She would listen attentively to her students, as she had been listened to at St. Anthony's in Dayton. She cared about them, was kind and helpful.

S. Laurita served on the General Council from 1968 to 1974. These were the years right after the Second Vatican Council when many Sisters left the community. This was painful for Laurita and the rest of the Council, but, in her autobiography she states: "Those were turbulent years...however, by the grace of God and the many prayers of the Sisters, we survived."

Prayer was an important part of Laurita's life. She was grateful, upon her retirement, to have more time for prayer and reflection, more time to just "be." She was glad to renew friendships, and to share in the many joys and blessings of living at the Motherhouse. She enjoyed planning parties, cooking and baking for the ICA Sisters and the Sisters on her floor in St. Francis Hall.

“Good ice-cream” was a special treat for Laurita, and no trip to Dayton would be complete without a stop at Esther Price for candy. Laurita would always take advantage of several free samples before making her choices for purchase.

S. Laurita was precise about her work, her appearance and her belongings. She appreciated nice clothes and always wanted to look her best. She loved the color blue. However, in her funeral plan, she requested to be laid to rest in her pink suit, which she had worn for her Jubilee.

We extend our sympathy to S. Laurita’s family. She treasured you, your many visits and notes. She knew of your care and concern for her. We are grateful to the staff of St. Clare Hall, who so lovingly cared for S. Laurita. We rejoice with her many friends that S. Laurita is finally enjoying the peace and joy of life with her God, for which she longed.

In gratitude to God for S. Laurita,



S. Maureen Irvin, OSF  
*for the Council*

S. LAURITA (RUTH KATHERINE) KROGER, OSF

Birth: September 30, 1914

Entrance into Religious Life: October 2, 1936

Entrance into Eternal Life: March 9, 2014

MISSIONS AT WHICH S. LAURITA SERVED:

1939-1940 Our Lady of Angels, St. Bernard, OH  
1940-1942 Mt. Mercy College Pittsburgh, PA (student)  
1942-1954 Our Lady of Angels, St. Bernard, OH  
1954-1960 Scecina High School, Indianapolis, IN  
1960-1964 St. Mary Academy, Indianapolis, IN  
1964-1983 Marian College, Indianapolis, IN  
1968-1974 Member of General Council, Oldenburg, IN  
1983-1989 ICA Academy, Oldenburg, IN  
1989-1994 Employee Services, Oldenburg, IN  
1994-2014 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)*