



# **Sr. Karla Barker, O.S.F.**

SEP 17, 1932 - SEP 17, 2014



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*WEIGEL Funeral Home*

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## **Sr. Karla Barker, O.S.F.**

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**S**r. Mary Karla Barker, age 82 of the Srs. of St. Francis in Oldenburg, Indiana, died Wednesday, September 17, 2014 at the convent. Born November 21, 1931 in Lawrenceburg, Indiana, she is the daughter of Flora (Nee: Vogelsang) and George Barker.

Sr. Karla graduated from Oldenburg Academy and worked a short time as a telephone operator before entering the convent September 8, 1950 at the age of 18, making her final vows August 12, 1956. She began teaching in 1952. In 1963 she added the job of school principal to go along with her teaching duties for the next 16 years before her career was interrupted by cancer. Schools she taught at include St. Michael's in Indianapolis, Indiana, St. Mary's in Aurora, Indiana, Holy Cross in St. Louis, Missouri, Immaculate Conception in Old Monroe, Missouri, St. Bernard's and St. Bonaventure's in Cincinnati, Ohio and St. Anthony's in Dayton, Ohio. Following her cancer surgery and recuperation, Sr. Karla moved to Oakland, California for graduate studies prior to moving to Kingstree, South Carolina where she worked at and later managed the Springbank Retreat Center for 21 years before returning to Oldenburg. She earned an under graduate degree from Marion College in Indianapolis and a graduates degree from Holy Name University while in Oakland. In later years, she noted, "Sr. Estelle Nordmeyer's love and respect for all of creation that was instilled during my Novitiate years has motivated me in much of what I hold sacred and important in my life. When it's time for me to walk into the sunset.....I pray that it will be done quietly and in "beauty".....to the soft drum beat of my Earth Mother's heart."

She is survived by numerous nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she is also preceded in death by her sisters Mary Lane and Gretna Sedler. Visitation is Monday, September 22nd, from 1 - 3 p.m. at the convent chapel. Funeral services follow at 3 p.m. with Rev. John Meyer officiating and burial will be in the convent



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cemetery. Weigel Funeral Home ([www.weigelfh.com](http://www.weigelfh.com)) is in charge of arrangements. Memorials may be made to the Srs. of St. Francis, P.O. Box 100, Oldenburg, Indiana, 47036 ([www.OldenburgFranciscans.org](http://www.OldenburgFranciscans.org)).



## Tribute Wall

**Sr. Karla Barker, O.S.F.**

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MP

**Maureen Drach Of Pontiac, Il** posted:

Sister Karla and I met on a whim! I was traveling to Cincinnati and had always heard there was a "cousin" at the convent in Oldenburg. I pulled off the highway, called the convent and asked for "Sister Barker" and the next thing I knew we were visiting at her apt. Her grandmother, Julie Lally and my great grandmother Mary Ellen Lally were sisters. We laughed and giggled like we'd known each other forever. While that was our first and only visit, we remained in contact! What a wonderful woman! RIP dear friend!

October 25 at 8:00 PM

SL

**Steve Trankle Of St. Louis, Mo.** posted:

Thanks Sr. Karla, for my 5th grade! Best year and the best teacher I had in my entire school career. You set me on the path to self education for the rest of my life way back in 1965. There is no way to thank you enough for that. How many people your life must have affected like mine. Rest in peace and God bless you for sure!!! From all the kids at Holy Cross in Baden, Mo.

September 30 at 8:00 PM

MM

**Mary Miller Of Detroit Michigan** posted:

My condolences to the Barker family. Isaiah 26:19 says: And the earth will let those powerless in death come to life. Yes may it help you to know that our loved ones will live again because God care and he know the pain that death brings to our families. May this fact bring you strength and comfort during your time of need.

September 23 at 8:00 PM

KI

**Kathryn Meyer Ryan Of Seabrook Island, Sc** posted:

When I was a child I heard about Charlene Barker, named after her Uncle Charlie, entering the Sisters of St. Francis at Oldenburg. I may have met her a few times when we visited her house in Greendale... Her dad is my grandmother's brother. My mom still living in Cincinnati, is Sr. Karla's 1st cousin and I and my siblings are her 2nd cousins. We were happy to see Sr.Karla at mom's 90th birthday celebration Mass at St. Mary's in Greensburg last year where my brother is the pastor and again after my 50th high school reunion at ICA last October.May she rest in peace.

September 18 at 8:00 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Sr. by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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