



Sr. Mary Stella Gampfer O.S.F.

FEB 25, 1938 - APR 12, 2019



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WEIGEL Funeral Home

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Sr. Mary Stella Gampfer O.S.F.

FEB 25, 1938 - APR 12, 2019

Sr. Mary Stella Gampfer, age 81 of the Srs. of St. Francis in Oldenburg, died Friday, April 12, 2019 at the convent. Born February 25, 1938 in Covington, Kentucky, she is the daughter of Rose (Nee: Goeke) and Charles Gampfer.

The second of three children of Charles and Rose, the family moved across the river to Cincinnati when she was young. She attended St. Bernard School at Winton Place where she became acquainted with the Oldenburg Franciscans and began her interest in religious life.

The family would move to the suburb of Norwood and where she met the Srs. of the Precious Blood order, but kept in contact with the Franciscans she met in grade school. The family's parish was served by Franciscan Friars so her interest in the Franciscans continued to grow. Following graduation, she entered the convent, which was delayed by her mother being ill. Her mother died the following year. Her father would eventually remarry and two more sons were added to the Gampfer family.

Sr. Mary Stella earned a Bachelor's degree from Marian University and a Master's degree in English from the University of Notre Dame. In her early years she taught at schools in Evansville and Oldenburg Indiana as well as Cincinnati and Middletown in Ohio. She also held the position of Directress of the Aspirancy at the Motherhouse for four years, along with instructing Novices and Postulants in English and history. In 1974, Sr. Mary Stella became an instructor of English at Marian University in Indianapolis and was made Assistant Professor of the English Department in 1979. She would hold that position until her retirement in 2015. Other duties included teaching writing and literature courses, overseeing the university's Fioretti (a student led literary and visual arts journal released yearly) as well as coordinating the annual Student Recognition Dinner and Awards Program.

Sr. Mary Stella is survived by brothers David, Joseph and Terrance Gampfer, all of Ohio. In addition to her parents, she is also preceded in death by her brother Charles Gampfer. Visitation is Tuesday, April 16th, from 1 – 3 p.m. at the convent chapel. Funeral services follow at 3 p.m. with



Obituary

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Rev. Leopold

Keffler O.F.M. officiating and burial in the convent cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Srs. of St. Francis, P.O. Box 100, Oldenburg, Indiana, 47036 (www.OldenburgFranciscans.org).



Events

Sr. Mary Stella Gampfer O.S.F.

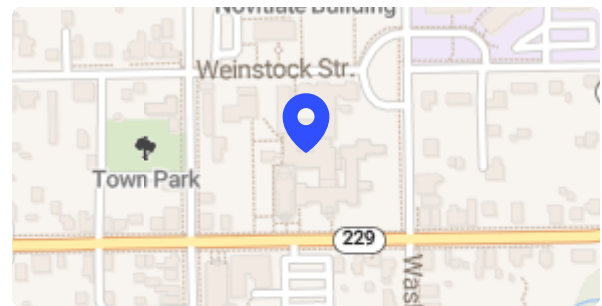
FEB 25, 1938 - APR 12, 2019

Visitation

 **Tuesday**, April 16, 2019


 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET

 **Srs. of St. Francis Chapel**
22143 Main Street, Oldenburg IN 47036

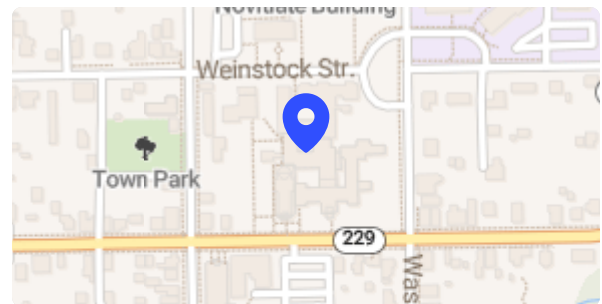


Service


 **Tuesday**, April 16, 2019

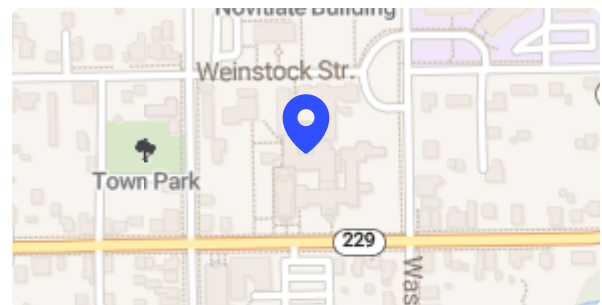
 3:00 PM ET

 **Srs. of St. Francis Chapel**
22143 Main Street, Oldenburg IN 47036



Cemetery Details

 **St. Francis Cemetery**
22143 Main Street, Oldenburg IN 47036





Tribute Wall

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Penny Ziemer Ford shared a photo to the **Sister Mary Stella Evansville Rex Mundi** album.

April 16 at 8:02 PM



Penny Ziemer Ford shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.

April 16 at 7:59 PM



Penny Ziemer Ford shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.

April 16 at 7:58 PM



Karen Pflum posted:

Sister Stella was my English Comp. teacher in the postulate in Oldenburg. This was 1968. She was an encouraging influence, and I finished the class feeling some confidence in my writing ability. She must have been able to see the big picture, because I remember being on the undisciplined side with writing. However, later in my teaching career, I taught language arts, primarily, to fifth and sixth grade students. In Dec. 2017, we had a chance to reminisce at the Christmas party for retired sisters. Sister Stella seemed to be happy and at peace with retirement. I was also happy to have had this "full circle" conversation with her at Oldenburg. Oldenburg Academy being my alma mater, and we both retired in 2015.

April 16 at 10:45 AM



Karen Pflum lit a candle in honor of Sr. Mary Stella.

April 16 at 10:08 AM





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PH

Perry Hasselbeck posted:

Joe and Terry:Sorry to hear about Sissy's passing. The comments below may offer you some comfort to know she touched so many lives through her teachings and faith in God. May she rest in peace and be welcomed into house of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless and sorry I couldn't be there for the service.Perry & Becky Hasselbeck

April 16 at 3:52 AM

PF

Penny Ford posted:

Sister Stella was a beacon of light in my difficult teen years. I became co-editor of the Rex Mundi school paper and worked closely with her, with her student and dear friend Pat Nosko, and with many others. There has been an outpouring of love and respect for her on our Rex Mundi Facebook page today -- so many of us owed her so much. I called her not that long ago -- she did remember me from the old days. God be with all her sisters, family and friends. May perpetual light shine upon her. Penny Ziemer FordDenver, Colorado

April 15 at 7:40 PM

KH

Karen Henderson posted:

I would not be where I am without Sister Stella's influence. She helped mold me as a teacher and as a student of literature and theater and writing. God bless Sr. Stella and thank you, God, for putting her in my life.Karen Henderson, Lafayette, Indiana

April 15 at 9:12 AM

RE

Robin C Evans lit a candle in honor of Sr. Mary Stella.

Sr. Stella, thank you for all that you've done for the students at Marian. You are loved by all and will be missed.

April 15 at 6:21 AM



AP

Argaret Petraits posted:

Always a bright star in my book of memories will be Sr. Stella and her gracious guidance to me and the Edyvean Repertory Theatre where she walked as a companion on the Ecumenism path.Margaret PetraitsFort Myers, Florida

April 15 at 4:27 AM



Tribute Wall

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Linda J Horner posted:

Sister Stella was my daughter's best friend. She shaped our daughter Lisa Laker into becoming the fine English teacher she is. We have loved her since we met her and will miss her dearly. Love. Linda and Joe Horner.

April 14 at 1:05 PM



Lisa Laker posted:

Sr. Stella was an inspiring teacher and lifelong friend. I was her editor for the Marian College Fioretti, and I have been a teacher for over two decades who tries to emulate her passion for Shakespeare, attention to detail, and empathy for her students. My junior year at Marian when Fr. Leopold could not attend the annual Stratford Festival theater trip, Sr. Stella lobbied with my parents so I could go in his place---what an opportunity! She was a champion for her students! After graduating from Marian in 1995, my friendship with Sr. Stella continued and my daughters were then blessed with her friendship. She came with us to Broadway performances like Beauty and the Beast, and my youngest daughter chose the saint name , "STELLA" as her confirmation name last year because of Sr. Stella's positive influence in her life. Clearly, Sr. Stella and I shared a love of theater, art, and literature. I always left our visits invigorated and uplifted! I will cherish all of those conversations and walks around the Oldenburg campus as well as our last conversation on her birthday this year where we ended with, "I love you."

April 14 at 5:09 AM



Penny Ziemer Ford shared a photo to the **Sister Mary Stella Evansville Rex Mundi** album.

April 16 at 8:02 PM



Sister Mary Stella Rex Mundi H.S. 1962-63



Penny Ziemer Ford shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.

April 16 at 7:59 PM



Sister Mary Stella, 1962-63. Evansville Rex Mundi



Media

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Penny Ziemer Ford shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.

April 16 at 7:58 PM



This is a yearbook photo from Rex Mundi, Evansville, 1962-63.



Memories only last if you share them

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



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