



Sr. Rita Vukovic O.S.F.

APR 6, 1930 - OCT 5, 2019



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Sr. Rita Vukovic O.S.F.

APR 6, 1930 - OCT 5, 2019

Sr. Rita Vukovic, age 89 of the Sisters of St. Francis in Oldenburg, Indiana, died Saturday, October 5, 2019 at the convent. Born Rita Mae Vukovic on April 6, 1930 in Dayton, Ohio, she is the daughter of Catherine (Nee: Fiedler) and Paul Vukovic, the eighth of thirteen children. Rita's father was Croatian while her mother was of Austrian descent and the couple raised their large family in the Catholic faith and sacrificed to ensure their children received a Catholic education.

Sr. Rita attended St. Anthony School in Dayton, where she first met and began to admire the Sisters of St. Francis. Later she would attend Oldenburg Academy for her freshman year, but being needed at home, she returned to Dayton and completed the next three years at Chaminade Julianne High School.

She entered the Franciscan community as Sr. Mary Anselm in 1948 and continued her education through the years at Marian University, Xavier University, Temple University and Central Michigan University. Sr. Rita taught at Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Michael the Archangel schools in Indianapolis, and St. Clement, St. Michael, and St. Aloysius in Cincinnati before becoming a secondary educator. Those schools included Scecina High School and St. Mary Academy in Indianapolis and Bishop Flaget High School in Chillicothe before a long tenure at Cardinal Ritter High School in Indianapolis.

During her 43-years at Cardinal Ritter, Sr. Rita became part of the Ritter family and was involved throughout the school in addition to teaching English and Religion. She was honored with the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice award in 1998, a papal honor that recognizes lay people for their service to the church. In presenting the award, Monsignor Schaedel noted, "Sr. Rita has a deep love for the church, and especially for the Eucharist. In the classroom she is a very traditional and strict teacher ... but on the other hand she has a very kind heart and a real love of her students ... and as they get to know her, they loved her in return." That same year she received the Called to Excellence Award given by the West Deanery Catholic Community and was also recognized at the archdiocesan Spirit of Service Awards.



Obituary

Sr. Rita Vukovic O.S.F.

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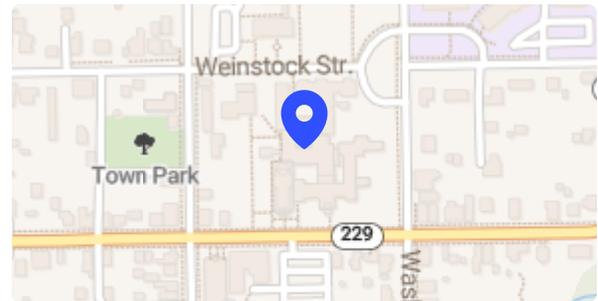
When Sr. Rita was not teaching, she had an adventurous side: racing cars and flying warplanes. In 2004 she earned a high-speed ride in an Indy Racing League racecar during Cardinal's Ritter's annual Calcutta fundraiser on Carburetion Day. At age 74, the "nun on the run" enjoyed the ride of a lifetime as driver Sarah Fisher drove her for four laps around the world-famous Indianapolis Motor Speedway in a two-seater, 700-horsepower open-wheel race car at 175 mph. In 2005 donors bid on another adventure for Sr. Rita and she accepted the challenge to take to the air for a half-hour flight in a T-6 Texan Warbird. Sr. Rita noted, "This challenge is close to my heart as several of my family members served in WWII and Vietnam," and with those words, she took to the air like a fighter pilot from the 1940s.

Sr. Rita is survived by siblings Mary Flinn, Robert Vukovic and Thomas Vukovic. In addition to her parents, she is also preceded in death by sisters Sr. Kathryn Ann Vukovic OSF, Frances Bunger, Dorothy Newton, Ann Gale, Terri Ruble and brothers John, George, Paul and Joseph Vukovic. Visitation is Wednesday, October 9th from 1 - 3 p.m. at the convent chapel. Funeral services follow at 3 p.m. with Rev. Neri Greskoviak OFM, officiating and burial will follow in the convent cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Sisters of St. Francis, P.O. Box 100, Oldenburg, Indiana, 47036 (www.OldenburgFranciscans.org).



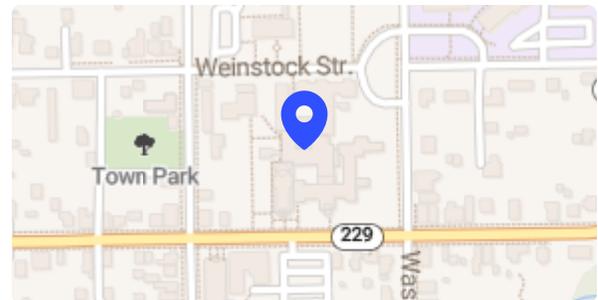
Visitation

-  **Wednesday**, October 9, 2019
-  1:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET
-  **Srs. of St. Francis Chapel**
22143 Main Street, Oldenburg IN 47036



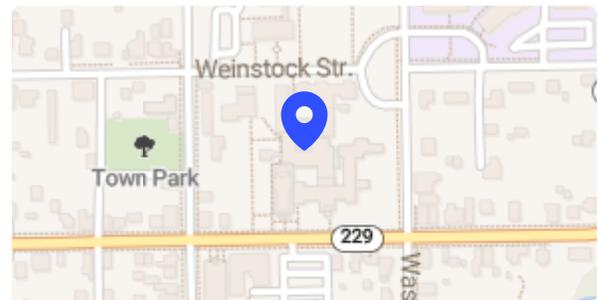
Service

-  **Wednesday**, October 9, 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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RH

Randy Heyob posted:

I recall Sister Anselm as a strict but fair teacher as well as taking a real interest in sports. She introduced soccer to the boys in 1963, and liked to pitch when we played baseball in the field across 30th street. I'm talking St. Michael, 63-64. During one such game we both were trying to field a pop up when a collision occurred, resulting in her hitting the dirt. I was extremely embarrassed and concerned for her well being. Truth be told, she could be pretty tough on a fella if she got mad at you. She got mad at me. I did my best to dust her off as modestly as possible and retreat back to first base. What a recess! I'll never forget her.

October 15 at 12:37 PM



Brigette Leavell-Carr lit a candle in honor of Sr. Rita.

I had Sister Rita for freshman English at Ritter. She was a wonderful teacher. I can still hear her say at the end of class, students make sure you have your paraphernalia, and chairs should be 3 and 2. The other thing that I remember was her saying "Good, better, best never let it rest until your good is better and your better is best." She will be missed; rest in heaven Honeydew, you deserved it. God needed his angel back home.



October 15 at 12:08 PM

AY

Amber Nicole Ying posted:

"Good, better, best..." a motto I and many of my classmates who were privileged to have learned under the instruction of Sr. Rita still recite. Sr. Rita was a no-nonsense woman, but never hesitated to show just how much she cared. Thank you, Sr. Rita, for helping me become the woman I am today.

October 15 at 10:34 AM

SW

Shane Wheeler posted:

She was truly the "Best in the West"! May perpetual light shine upon her. May she Rest In Peace.

October 15 at 10:21 AM



Tribute Wall

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Kendall Bare posted:

Such a sweet lady, she will definitely be miss she was always happy even when she was in such pain. Such a beautiful angel she is now! So lucky to have gotten the chance to take care of her and get to know her, you will be missed sister Rita!

October 9 at 4:04 PM



Monica Richardson posted:

I had Sister Rita for Freshman English. To this day, I still find myself correcting people's misuse of grammar. You were one of the great ones, Sister Rita. Monica Jordan Richardson, Class of '79.

October 9 at 1:21 AM



Anonymous sent a Garden Accent Stone - "Our Family Chain Is Broken" to the Vukovic family.

October 8 at 4:33 PM



Tom Patterson posted:

On April 6, 1930 God lent us a treasure. On October 5 He called her home leaving us to ponder the immense impact she had on so many young minds. We all have our own personal memories of her as do I. They connect us all in their brightness, never fading, as the years go by. Some day, if I'm lucky, I'll see her again and if I do, I'll know that I'm in a good place. Sometimes I muse if newcomers to heaven need to go through an orientation period. If they do, I know where I want to spend mine. The same place I was September of 1970. In Sr. Rita's home room. Tom Patterson Class of 74

October 8 at 3:42 PM



Tom Patterson posted:

On April 6th 1930, God sent us a treasure. On October 5th he called her home and we are left to ponder the affects of this treasure on so many young minds. All whom she met or taught have their own personal memories of her as do I. After all these years none can doubt or forget the brightness of this treasure. Some day, if I'm lucky, I'll see her again. And if I do I know where. Sometimes I muse if newcomers to heaven have an orientation period. If they do, I know where I'd like mine to be. The same place it was in September of 1970. Sister Rita's home room Tom Patterson Class of 74

October 8 at 12:23 PM



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SR

Sheela R. sent a virtual gift in honor of Sr. Rita.

October 8 at 7:51 AM



BB

Beatrice Drics-Bursten '78 posted:

Be, am, is, are, was, were, being, been...not the only lesson I will take forever with me. I had an extra special connection to Sr. Rita as our son was born on her birthday. My husband and I were at Easter Vigil Mass at St. Michael's. Our son at that time was almost two weeks overdue. Sr. Rita came by and asked when I was due and I said if he doesn't arrive by Monday, they were going to induce. Sister looked at me and said, "have the baby on Tuesday." Well, if you ever had Sr. Rita in class, you did what she said. Sure enough, our son arrived on that Tuesday, April 6th. At that time I did not realize it was her birthday. I assume I got an "A" for that assignment. You will be terribly missed but our fond memories and lessons will live on always.

October 8 at 6:37 AM

RG

Rene Hallal-Gonen sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Vukovic family.

October 8 at 3:54 AM



RG

Rene Hallal-Gonen posted:

this remarkable woman was truly a 1-in-a-million teacher, mentor and friend. rest in peace, Sister Rita... Any success i've ever had in my life is a direct result of your influence. Thank you, my dear friend, for everything. I'll see you on the other side. ❤️

October 8 at 3:49 AM

PM

Peggy Melton Mccool lit a candle in honor of Sr. Rita.

October 7 at 11:38 PM





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CH

Chris Waggoner Hill posted:

CRHS 89'. Will never forget this wonderful woman! I've never forgotten the cabbage rolls you made me on my last senior lunch. RIH 🌻🌻🌻🌻

October 7 at 2:32 PM

TC

Tim Connor posted:

Sister Rita taught me 8th grade at St. Michael's in 1962. She had a lifelong effect on me. She will be missed but never forgotten. Tim Connor

October 7 at 1:53 PM

SC

Steve Rutledge, Crhs '76 posted:

Everyone who knew her was blessed. Sister Rita served others for years, and she had a positive impact on generations of students.

October 7 at 10:19 AM

LG

Linda Guilfooy posted:

RIP Sister Rita. Amen

October 7 at 5:59 AM

MO

Melissa Malicoat Rogers, Class Of '93 lit a candle in honor of Sr. Rita.



October 7 at 4:34 AM

DS

Diana Stinson posted:

Sr. Mary Anselm (as she was known then) was my 8th grade teacher in '62-'63 at St. Michael's, Indianapolis, IN. She was one of a kind, and certainly unforgettable. Sending sincere condolences to her biological and Oldenburg family. Fly high Sr. Rita!

October 7 at 4:00 AM



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JS

Jacqueline Smith posted:

I was blessed to have Sister Rita for freshman English many years ago, but the lessons I learned from her go way beyond high school English. Life lessons she taught us pop up in daily life making me think of her quite often. She has left a lasting impression on so many people. Rest peacefully Sister Rita!

October 7 at 3:43 AM

MO

Melissa Malicoat Rogers, Class Of '93 posted:

She will never be forgotten! She is truly a legend at Ritter H. S. & it is a privilege to have had her as my teacher. Sending love & hugs to her family & friends. Sincerely, Melissa Malicoat Rogers, CRHS Class of '93

October 7 at 1:30 AM

MO

Melissa Malicoat Rogers, Class Of '93 sent a virtual gift in honor of Sr. Rita.



October 7 at 1:18 AM

LS

Larry Saxton October 9 at 1:22 AM

It's amazing how when you are young you always believe that people who pushes you who ask that you give your very best are against you only when we I grew did I realize Sr Rita was always on my side in my corner pushing me to be the best I could be everyday her lessons still play a part in thriving to do my best you are in my heart always and thank you so much for caring and pushing a stubborn little Catholic boy always your goosey gander Larry Saxton CRHS 97

MT

Melanie Law Tuttle posted:

What a wonderful teacher she was to soany at ritter high school. She will be missed by many. Always in our hearts tho.rip. sister Rita

October 6 at 6:02 PM



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Anonymous sent a Sentiments of Serenity Spray to the Vukovic family.

October 6 at 5:36 PM



Anonymous sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Vukovic family.

October 6 at 5:15 PM



Christina Chapman posted:

Freshman English was a huge deal at Ritter. I remember being terrified of getting the wrong answer, but I learned more in that class than I did all eight years previously. I remember reciting Romeo and Juliette, that we had to memorize and get up in front of class to read. I remember later when we had to clean the hallways she would check on us and give us water and always made sure we didn't stay too late saying she would take care of it if anyone complained. Everyone respected Sister Rita and later loved her for being such a great teacher and an even better friend. I always remember her smile and hear her telling kids to tuck in shirts.

October 6 at 4:51 PM



Anonymous sent a Florist Choice Bouquet to the Vukovic family.

October 6 at 4:42 PM



Theresa (Morin) Brambley lit a candle in honor of Sr. Rita.

Cardinal Ritter Class of 1978 ❤️❤️

October 6 at 3:59 PM





Tribute Wall

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Debra Cales-Giddens lit a candle in honor of Sr. Rita.



October 6 at 3:27 PM



Margaret Beasley posted:

Sister Rita was an incredible person & teacher. Her influence will live on in her students' lives. Our prayers are with your family. The Beasleys

October 6 at 2:47 PM



Mike Loviscek posted:

She was truly one of a kind. She had taught so many to be faithful and caring. She will be missed but never forgotten. Sister Rita's will live forever.

October 6 at 2:45 PM



Stephenie Paquette posted:

Sister was my 3rd grade teacher at Our Lady of Lourdes many years ago and she always remembered me when we met from time to time over the years. I loved her smile! So many years have passed and she is one of the last of my Franciscan teachers.....I am grateful for all of them and remember them with love. I bet they are having a grand reunion with her! 🙏❤️🙏 Stephenie Tschida Paquette

October 6 at 2:08 PM



Dom And Phyllis Pavese October 7 at 2:57 PM

We loved her and shared many laughs together. She taught both of our children at Ritter. She was a delight and a true character, she will truly be missed. May she rest in peace. Love, Dom and Phyllis Pavese



Memories only last if you share them

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



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