



Sr. Marta Aiken O.S.F.

MAY 6, 1925 - MAR 29, 2021



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WEIGEL Funeral Home

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Sr. Marta Aiken O.S.F.

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Sr. Marta Aiken, age 95 of the Sisters of St. Francis in Oldenburg, Indiana died on March 29, 2021 at the convent. Born Doris Anne Bakewell Aiken on May 6, 1925 in Cincinnati, OH, she is the only child of Victor and Norma (Quitter) Aiken.

Sr. Marta attended Nativity School, followed by Pleasant Ridge School before the family moved to Richmond, Indiana and she continued her education at Hibbard Jr. High School, Richmond Sr. High School and ultimately Marian College. Marta first met the Franciscan Sisters when she attended St. Andrew Church in Richmond. Having enrolled in college during World War II, Marta joined the work force while pursuing her college degree and was employed at F.W. Woolworth, JCPenney's and at a factory manufacturing machine gun shell casings. She earned a Bachelor's degree in History at Marian University in Indianapolis, Indiana and met many members of the Sisters of St. Francis as she discerned her call to religious life.

Marta's parents were not enamored with her decision to pursue a religious calling. Her father was non-Catholic and ultimately disowned her while her Catholic mother refused to support her decision. Marta noted that while she felt at home with her Sisters in Oldenburg, it would take several years of prayer and support before she would see her parents slowly accept her decision. During this time Sr. Lavonne Long became her confidant as she had experienced a similar situation within her family.

When asked what attracted her to the Oldenburg Franciscans, Marta noted in an earlier interview, "I think the strongest attraction was the down-to-earth attitude that these Sisters shared with us at Marian. I saw the love of God, a charitable group of women who gave much to us as students, both in the classroom and in the dorm, women who lived the WORD in everyday life. After my first trip to Oldenburg, I knew in my heart that I too, wished to share my life and gifts with this group of women. I have never regretted a moment of it."

Through the years Marta continued her education earning a Master's degree in Education with a concentration in Spanish from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio and completed studies at



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the University of Madrid, Spain, Middlebury College in Vermont and St. Louis University in Missouri.

Marta served as an educator at St. Leo and Our Lady of Angels in Cincinnati, St. Ann in Hamilton, Ohio; Holy Cross in St. Louis, Missouri; Immaculate Conception Academy in Oldenburg; St. Mary Academy and Marian University in Indianapolis, where she served as an Associate Professor of Spanish for 12 years. After 30 years of teaching, she opted for a sabbatical and spent two years at Shalom House for personal growth where she embraced a new ministry in the Hospice of Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis while continuing to serve as librarian at Chatard High School.

After discernment, Marta opted to pursue the Corporate Ministry Program at St. Louis University which included clinical Pastoral Education and marked new beginnings. After a residency at Jacksonville Baptist Medical Center in Florida, she was ready for full-time chaplaincy at St. Francis Hospital in Monroe, Louisiana, followed by 10 years at St. Joseph Medical Center in Tampa, Florida.

In 1996, Sr. Marta returned to Oldenburg to accept the Directorship of Pastoral Care of St. Clare Hall where she ministered for four years before seeking a part-time ministry as Chaplain of the Motherhouse Sisters to accompany them to medical appointments. Marta's life has always reflected Franciscan charisms and was founded in prayer and service as she ministered as an educator, gentle listener, loving presence and a woman of quiet dignity, integrity and ever open to the Spirit.

A private visitation and service will be held. The funeral mass will be live-streamed at 3 p.m. Tuesday, April 6th, with Rev. Robert Weakley O.F.M. officiating. It can be viewed by going to <https://youtu.be/cv35SbiLN4A>. Memorials may be made to the Srs. of St. Francis, P.O. Box 100, Oldenburg, Indiana, 47036 (www.OldenburgFranciscans.org).



Events

Sr. Marta Aiken O.S.F.

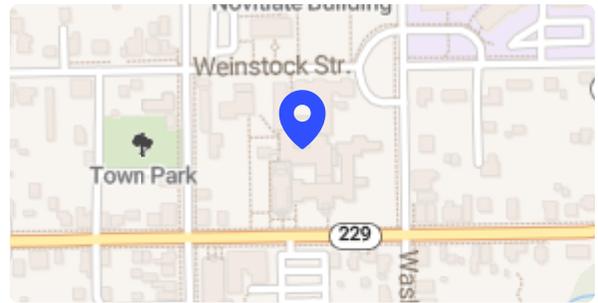
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Cemetery Details



St. Francis Cemetery

22143 Main Street, Oldenburg IN 47036





Tribute Wall

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LT

Lynn Thornburg lit a candle in honor of Sr. Marta.

I was a transfer student from Chaminade College in Hawaii to Marian College in the fall of 1967. I had Sr. Marta for Spanish and she was a blessing. She was so kind and loving as well as helpful. I was attending Marian when the dress code changed for the sisters. I altered her clothes for her. She came home with me to my parents home in Alexandria, Indiana. We had such a wonderful time. I've kept in touch with Sr. Marta since graduation in 1970. My husband and I attended her Jubilee at Oldenburg and we had such a beautiful visit. We will miss her Christmas letters. Rest In Peace Sr. Marta, you were truly an inspiration. 🙏🙏
Paul and Lynn (Tustin) Thornburg



April 13 at 2:25 PM

BW

Billie Wallmann posted:

Sister Marta and I taught Spanish at Marian College. I've known her since 1974. She was a wonderful mentor, and she and I always kept in touch. I learned so much from her. Marian College was my first job teaching after my teaching assistant at Purdue. She was so sweet and helped me tremendously. May she rest in peace!

April 12 at 11:30 AM

MB

Margo Heil-Baldwin posted:

Two friends of mine and myself met Sister Marta in 2006 when we came from Texas to attend my 50 year reunion from St. Louis Elementary School in Batesville. We were admiring the Fatima Shrine and the sisters cemetery when we came upon her. My friends who were not Catholic, asked her many questions and she was so kind and patient, we all fell in love with her. We returned again for my 50th reunion from the Academy, and then every few years thereafter. We always called Sr. Marta, and she took time during our visits to Oldenburg, to spend an hour or more with us. She told us in length about joining the convent and the difficult time she had with her family. She truly was a special woman and we loved her dearly. Our condolences to her family, she is resting in peace with the Lord. God bless all of you.

April 3 at 4:12 PM

MH

Mary Houser posted:

I'm a 1967 graduate of St Mary Academy in Indianapolis. All those years ago I still remember her sweet, gentle nature. She was loved dearly.

April 3 at 5:04 AM



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Monica Earle posted:

My most vivid memories of Sister Marta were her during her visits to our home for Sunday dinner and family events. She loved my Dad's cooking & rightly so. Sister and my parents were good friends from the time Mom & she met when Mom was a Freshman at Marian & Sister was a Senior. She was such a sweet & caring person and she will truly be missed by my family. I am sure she and my parents, Lester & Thelma Earle, are enjoying catching up.

April 1 at 6:28 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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