



Sr. Mary Stella Gampfer O.S.F.

February 25, 1938 - April 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 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 (<http://www.OldenburgFranciscans.org>).

Cemetery

St. Francis Cemetery

22143 Main Street

Oldenburg, IN, 47036

Events

APR **Visitation** 01:00PM - 03:00PM

16

Srs. of St. Francis Chapel

22143 Main Street, Oldenburg, IN, US, 47036

APR **Service** 03:00PM

16

Srs. of St. Francis Chapel

22143 Main Street, Oldenburg, IN, US, 47036

Comments



“ 1 file added to the album Sister Mary Stella Evansville Rex Mundi



Penny Ziemer Ford - April 17, 2019 at 12:02 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Penny Ziemer Ford - April 16, 2019 at 11:59 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Penny Ziemer Ford - April 16, 2019 at 11:58 PM



“ 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.

Karen Pflum - April 16, 2019 at 02:45 PM



“ Karen Pflum lit a candle in memory of Sr. Mary Stella Gampfer O.S.F.



Karen Pflum - April 16, 2019 at 02:08 PM



“ 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

Perry Hasselbeck - April 16, 2019 at 07:52 AM



“ 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 Ford
Denver, Colorado

Penny Ford - April 15, 2019 at 11:40 PM



“ 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

Karen Henderson - April 15, 2019 at 01:12 PM



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



Robin C Evans - April 15, 2019 at 10:21 AM



“ 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 Petraits
Fort Myers, Florida

Margaret Petraits - April 15, 2019 at 08:27 AM



“ 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.

Linda J Horner - April 14, 2019 at 05:05 PM



“ 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."

Lisa Laker - April 14, 2019 at 09:09 AM