



## SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

PO BOX 100 OLDENBURG, IN 47036

WWW.OLDENBURGFRAUCISCANS.ORG

FACEBOOK: FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF OLDENBURG



S. LAURENCIA LISTERMAN, OSF

November 24, 2014

Dear Sisters, Associates, Co-Workers and Friends,

In this month of November, as the Feast of All Saints/All Souls gives way to the celebration of Thanksgiving, Sister Laurencia Listerman offered the fruits of her 101 years on earth to her God as she began her new eternal life on the evening of the 20<sup>th</sup>. She was where she had hoped she would be: in St. Clare Hall at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis, which had meant so much to her.

Helen Listerman, the fourth of five children, was born on April 25, 1913, to Henry and Helen Listerman. In her autobiography, she describes her life at home as being “beautiful” because of her parents and siblings. She graduated from St. Clement Elementary School in 1927 and from Our Lady of Angels High School in 1931. In September of 1931, she became the first graduate of Our Lady of Angels to enter the community of the Sisters of St. Francis.

Following her first years in formation as a Sister, Laurencia served for twelve years as an elementary teacher, parish organist and choir director. She often said that those were such happy years, and she would have liked to have continued in that vein for the rest of her teaching career. But the community recognized her gifts in journalism and English so her next thirty-seven years were spent in teaching high school.

When she retired to Oldenburg, she delighted in sharing life with the other Sisters. Whether leading a discussion group or distributing candy to the residents of St. Clare Hall, she was always interested in making life better, more interesting and more challenging for the other Sisters.

Sister Laurencia was on a never-ending quest to be a learner throughout her life. She read continuously, was always open to attending lectures and workshops, and was eager to supply her friends and students with books and articles that would enhance their lives.

I always considered Laurencia to be a strong woman, but I have changed my mind and consider her to be a woman of strength after reading the following poem:

### ***A STRONG WOMAN VERSUS A WOMAN OF STRENGTH***

*A strong woman works out every day to keep her body in shape...  
but a woman of strength kneels in prayer to keep her soul in shape...*

*A strong woman isn't afraid of anything...  
but a woman of strength shows courage in the midst of her fear...*

*A strong woman won't let anyone get the best of her...  
but a woman of strength gives the best of her to everyone...*

*A strong woman makes mistakes and avoids the same in the future...  
A woman of strength realizes life's mistakes can also be God's blessing  
and capitalizes on them...*

*A strong woman walks sure footedly...  
but a woman of strength knows God will catch her when she falls...*

*A strong woman wears the look of confidence on her face...  
but a woman of strength wears grace...*

*A strong woman has faith that she is strong enough for the journey...  
but a woman of strength has faith that it is in the journey  
that she will become strong...*

Sister Laurencia Listerman, a woman of strength, did what our God asked: promoted the best in every person, loved the life and faith she embraced, and walked humbly into eternity with God.



Sister Margie Niemer  
*for the Leadership Team*

## S. LAURENCIA (HELEN) LISTERMAN

Birth: April 25, 1913

Entrance into Religious Life: September 7, 1931

Entrance into Eternal Life: November 20, 2014

### MISSIONS AT WHICH S. LAURENCIA SERVED:

1934-1935	St. Anthony, Evansville, IN
1935-1939	St. Mary, North Vernon, IN
1939-1941	St. Peter, New Richmond, OH
1941-1942	St. Anthony, Morris, IN
1942-1947	St. Francis, Kansas City, MO
1947-1948	Motherhouse, Oldenburg, IN
1948-1949	Marian University
1949-1956	St. Mary Academy, Indianapolis, IN
1956-1963	Scecina High School, Indianapolis, IN
1963-1969	Immaculate Conception Academy, Oldenburg, IN
1969-1975	Scecina High School, Indianapolis, IN
1975-1977	St. Mary Academy, Indianapolis, IN
1977-1984	Our Lady of Angels, St. Bernard, OH
1984-2014	Motherhouse, Oldenburg, IN

*Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Weigel Funeral Home – visit their website to view Sister's online memorial, and if desired, an online condolence may be left on the site to share with her family and the Franciscan Sisters – [www.Weigelfh.com](http://www.Weigelfh.com)*

*Memorial Donations in Sister's memory may be given online at [www.OldenburgFranciscans.org](http://www.OldenburgFranciscans.org)*