



## SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

PO BOX 100 OLDENBURG, IN 47036

WWW.OLDENBURGFRAUCISCANS.ORG

FACEBOOK: FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF OLDENBURG



S. RUTH GREIWE, OSF

August 10, 2015

Dear Sisters, Associates, Co-workers, Family and Friends,

Early morning on the Feast of the Transfiguration, August 6<sup>th</sup>, God called Sister Ruth Greiwe home. What a beautiful sight she must have seen! How she must have been transfigured in the eyes of God!

Ruth grew up in the country four miles outside Greensburg, Indiana. She was the eighth of nine children in the family of George and Margaret Harpring Greiwe. She fondly remembers their red brick house near the road on a little knoll on their large farm, which she grew to love, claim as her own, exploring and cherishing every tree, house, barn, field and woods. She loved playing with her siblings, making mud-pies, watching the men work in the fields, picking berries, playing in the snow and doing chores.

Transportation was not provided to St. Mary School in Greensburg so Ruth and her siblings attended Hazelrigg Elementary, a one-room brick school house that sat on their family property. Ruth said, "From the first day, school was my life!" She loved to read and learn all she could. It was no wonder that she was asked to skip the second grade. After finishing elementary school she attended Greensburg High School, thoroughly enjoying the many classes and new teachers. It was during her senior year she began thinking about the possibility of becoming a Sister.

Ruth stayed home for a few years after high school to help her parents. During this time the call to enter religious life grew stronger. She followed in the footsteps of her aunt, Sister Fermina Greiwe, and entered the convent February 11, 1941, just two days before her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

S. Ruth reveled in the new found prayer life and companionship of the Sisters. During her second year Novitiate she became a full time student at Marian College (University). She furthered her education by attending Purdue, Xavier and St. Louis Universities, specializing in the sciences. This led to teaching chemistry, physics, science, math, English and religion at the Academy of the Immaculate Conception (ICA) and various other high schools in Indiana, Ohio and Papua New Guinea.

Throughout life, S. Ruth remained an avid reader, loved nature, traveled to many places including the Holy Land and Assisi. She went with seniors from the Foreign Study League to tour six European countries. Some of her favorite courses were Philosophy of Science and Atomic Energy. She was always very interested in current affairs, community, church and political news.

In S. Ruth's writings, she mentions three significant situations that have changed her life. The first was entering the convent, knowing she was set on life's journey to follow Jesus and there was no turning back. Life was good: there was education, good teachers, wonderful universities, travel and teaching. The second change came when she accepted the invitation to be a missionary in New Guinea. For twenty years she ministered in PNG teaching science, math and religion to students at Tari High School. It was another period of growing, stretching in mind, soul and body. Upon returning to the States, she authored the "Chronicle Account of the Sisters of St. Francis Serving in Papua New Guinea."

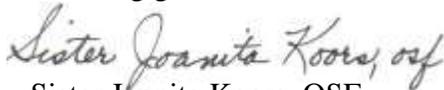
S. Ruth writes, “The third change altered my life, my life style, my body and spiritual life. This was the most dramatic change of all for it seemed to come on so quietly and gradually. Suddenly I was an old woman, an old nun. I was almost the last rose of summer – my companions all seemed to be in the graveyards or in wheelchairs or beds. I found that while I had continued on seeking for goals and new ventures I had only one – to live each day as if it were my last day on the planet. I found my eyesight, in one single moment, reduced to one eye; my hearing seemed impaired; I needed a pacer to monitor my heart beat. But, as all things seemed to drop away, my memory seemed sharper, my perceptions richer and my view of life more clear.”

People who knew S. Ruth described her as brilliant, dedicated, interested in everything and everybody, current with world news, delightful, personable, deeply spiritual, a great scientist, an excellent teacher, gentle and very humble. S. Ruth was often the greeter at St. Clare Hall as she sat on her bench to welcome people as they passed by. The unique interest S. Ruth gave to each of us as we encountered her always sent us away deeply blessed.

It was only a couple weeks ago that S. Ruth celebrated her 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee. As she rolled up the chapel aisle, she was all smiles and waving to everyone, while being applauded by the congregation. Perhaps she entered heaven the same way!

We extend our love and sympathy to the Sisters, Associates, Co-workers, family and friends of S. Ruth. God was the center of her deep spiritual life. May she now continue to intercede for us.

In loving gratitude,

  
Sister Joanita Koors, OSF  
for the Council

S. RUTH GREIWE – *formerly S. Margaret George*

Birth: February 13, 1920

Entered Religious Life: February 11, 1941

Entered Eternal Life: August 6, 2015

#### MISSIONS AT WHICH S. RUTH SERVED:

- 1944-1945 Immaculate Conception Academy, Oldenburg, IN
- 1945-1954 Our Lady of Angels, Cincinnati, OH
- 1954-1956 Immaculate Conception Academy, Oldenburg, IN
- 1956-1958 St. Mary Academy, Indianapolis, IN
- 1958-1966 Scecina High School, Indianapolis, IN
- 1966-1969 Stephen Badin High School, Hamilton, OH
- 1969-1974 Fenwick High School, Middletown, OH
- 1974-1995 Tari, Papua New Guinea
- 1995-1996 Sabbatical
- 1996-2015 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)*