



Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

Sister Lauren Wiegman was born in Barberton, Ohio, to Donald and Helen Rizer Wiegman on July 7, 1935, and was named Barbara Ann. The oldest of seven children, Lauren grew up in Mansfield, Ohio, and always considered St. Peter Parish in Mansfield her home parish. Graduating from St. Peter Grade School, she attended St. Peter High School for one year and completed her high school education at St. Francis Academy (now Joliet Catholic Academy). Barbara Ann entered the postulancy on September 2, 1952, and on August 13, 1953, she entered the novitiate and received the name of Sister M. Lauren. She made her first vows on August 12, 1955, and final vows on August 13, 1958.

After her college years at the University of St. Francis, Lauren **received her Master's degree in Guidance and Counseling from Loyola University in Chicago**, a Reading Specialist certificate from The Ohio State University, and certification in accounting from Columbus State Community College.

Lauren Wiegman spent nearly 20 years teaching 7th and 8th graders. During her final six years in the parish schools, she was principal and superior. In Lauren's case, her responsibilities also included training the altar servers. Lauren would say, humbly but accurately, that the priests in the parish were always grateful that she was in charge.

Lauren's years as a superior in the parish convent proved that she was a gifted administrator, but she knew that she was not happy in that role. When the community wanted Lauren to pursue further studies for her master's degree, the expectation was that she would go on in administration, but she felt comfortable enough to say that she preferred not to be a supervisor over anyone. Instead, when asked what field she would prefer, Lauren chose Guidance and Counseling. Two nights before she died she recalled with gratitude that conversation in explaining the turn that her career had taken.

For a decade, Lauren was a counselor of teenagers at St. Francis De Sales High School in Chicago and at Bishop Ready High School in Columbus, Ohio. She never lost her skill at mathematics, however, and at St. Charles Preparatory School where she taught **algebra part time, one faculty member said, "Sister Lauren could teach a student to solve word problems when no one else could."** Her specialty was always mathematics, which prepared her for at least three jobs as an accountant in later years, two of them for non-profit agencies that helped the poor.

Lauren knew life's struggles. The family's greatest sorrow was the death of her brother Richard at age 23 who was killed in an accident on a naval aircraft carrier.

Lauren was an avid reader, and by her own assessment she preferred biography to fiction. The study of people fascinated her, and that joy was evident in her 33 years as a tutor. She enjoyed

Alleluia!



Sister Lauren Wiegman, OSF

people of all ages. She taught English to immigrant adults and math to their children. In recent years she especially delighted in repeating the comments of some of the youngsters who would mention her wrinkles as they were living in a young world and noticed her age. Lauren was grateful to many who supported her ministry including the donations from the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission, as most of her clients were struggling to balance education and the living expenses of each day. (Title of JPIC)

Lauren shared community with Sister Marie Miller in Columbus, and they welcomed Rosemary, Marie's mother, and her Pomeranian pup. Puccini, the dog's proper name, brought a song into the hearts of those in the neighborhood. After Rosemary's death, Puccini clearly became even more fond of Lauren and in her better years, the two would drive to the Scioto River and meditate on the beauty of nature and the goodness of God. Her daily rosary and her devotion to daily Mass all spoke of the depth of her spirituality.

Hospitality was a hallmark of Lauren and Marie's home, and the Ohio/Michigan Sisters always gathered there for local chapter meetings and with the Associates for other events over the years. In this year of Covid19, the Sisters zoomed every other week, and Lauren would say periodically, "After the meetings, it feels as if we have had company in the house."

Community was important to her. She feared that in the future there might be young women who wanted to follow the Gospel life through the vows that might be denied the opportunity to know the **joy that community life had brought to her. Surely the "throng of witnesses" that greets Sister Lauren Wiegman in eternity includes many family members, friends and classmates, fellow Sisters and Associates, students and co-workers with whom she interacted in her 85 years. Their company will warm her heart as she, through her joy and laughter, so often nourished and inspired those around her. She was, as she so often designated others, "a real sweetie."** Alleluia.

Sister Lauren Wiegman, OSF

July 7, 1935 — February 17, 2021

<i>Born:</i>	July 7, 1935
<i>Parents:</i>	Donald Wiegman and Helen Rizer
<i>Postulancy:</i>	September 2, 1952
<i>Novitiate:</i>	August 13, 1953
<i>First Profession:</i>	August 12, 1955
<i>Final Profession:</i>	August 13, 1958
<i>Entered New Life:</i>	February 17, 2021

Ministry History

1955-1956	Teacher: Grade 3, St. Ann, Lansing, Illinois
1956-1957	Teacher: Grades 3 and 4, St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, Illinois
1957-1958	Teacher: Grade 7, St. John the Baptist, Joliet, Illinois
1958-1959	Teacher: Grade 7, Sacred Heart, Englewood, Chicago
1959-1961	Teacher: Grade 8, St. Raymond, Joliet, Illinois
1961-1964	Teacher: Grades 7 and 8, St. Rita, Aurora, Illinois
1964-1967	Superintendent/Principal/Teacher: Grade 8, St. Mary, Plainfield, Illinois
1967-1970	Superintendent/Principal/Teacher: Grade 8, St. Mary, Fairfield, Alabama
1971-1971	Principal: St. Procopius Grade School, Chicago, Illinois
1971-1974	Guidance Counselor: St. Francis de Sales, Chicago
1974-1977	Guidance Counselor: Bishop Ready High School, Columbus, Ohio
1977-1979	Guidance Counselor/Teacher: Bishop Ready High School, Columbus
1979-1983	Clinician: Reading/Math Clinic, Columbus, Ohio
1983-1988	Clinician/Teacher: Math, St. Charles Preparatory School, Columbus, Ohio
1988-1990	Teacher (Private): Residence, Columbus, Ohio
1990-1992	Bookkeeping: YWCA, Columbus, Ohio
1992-1993	Accounting Assistant: YWCA, Columbus
1993-1994	Accountant: YWCA, Columbus
1994-2001	Accountant: Community Housing Network, Inc., Columbus, Ohio
2001-2021	Private Tutor: Columbus, Ohio

<i>Burial:</i>	Thursday, February 25, 2021, Prayer, Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, Illinois
<i>Interment:</i>	Plot 344, Grave 11
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	Her parents, Donald Wiegman and Helen Rizer, her brother Richard and her sisters Donna and Rose Mary.
<i>Survived by:</i>	Her brother, Lawrence and her sisters Janet (Thomas) Boeckman and H. Catherine (Philip) Hawk.

Rest in Peace, Sister Lauren!