

# Alleluia!

Joan Wendell, OSF



Sister Joan Wendell was born, the youngest of 11 children, in Joliet, Illinois on February 28, 1932, to John and Barbara (Warnisher) Wendell. She was baptized at St. Mary Carmelite Church.

After working many years as a professional photographer, Joan entered the convent in January of 1959. In August of 1959, Joan became a novice and received the name Sister Fabian. When the sisters had the option to return to their baptismal names, Joan became Sister Joan Wendell. Her temporary profession followed in 1961, and the celebration of her final vows was in 1966.

Joan is survived by two sisters Bernadine and Lorraine, three sisters-in-law Delores, Louise and Wanda, a brother-in-law Bill and several nieces and nephews. Her brothers Hubert, Bernard, Emmett, Don, Robert and Paul and her sisters Agatha and Rose preceded her in death.

Joan attended grade school at Woodland School, high school at Joliet Central High School and college at the College of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois. Joan received her Master of Arts degree from the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs in Guidance and Counseling. She was also a certified Social Worker.

Whether Joan was teaching, counseling, hiking, praying, or doing anything else, it was apparent to all who knew her that she loved life. She was happy, gracious and caring to all she met. Her favorite place to be was in Rocky Mountain National Park. She loved being there, hiking on its trails and enjoying the beauty of nature with her friends. She loved the high school students and she loved her dogs, Benji and Curly Boy.

As Father Fabian, the priest who wrote her recommendation to enter the convent, wrote, "Joan was one of the nicest parishioners I knew, always willing to do whatever she could to help." It was said of her by many of her formation directors and superiors that she was dependable, reliable, well liked and got along well with others. She had a sparkling personality. We can all attest to this. It was fun to be with Joan.

After Joan's sister Rose's death in 1998, Sister Lucille Krippel, who has been a long time friend and companion of Joan, began to notice differences in her behaviors. In 1999, Joan was officially diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Lou continued to live with Joan in Colorado and to care for her needs until it was necessary for Joan to come to Joliet. We thank Lou and the many sisters and friends who cared for her and visited with her during these past years.

Joan gradually became weaker and died peacefully on December 20, 2004. Joan herself had said in one of her writings that, "our gift to the future will be our response to the poor and the affirming and supporting of each other." And, Joan, we say thank you to you for all the love and support you have shown to many of us and we say thank you to all who have affirmed Joan throughout her life, but most especially during her illness.

May God hug you warmly, Joan, as you enter heaven during your favorite season of Christmas. May you rest comfortably, without pain and difficulty, forever and ever. Amen. Alleluia!

*Joan Wendell, OSF*  
28 February 1932 - 20 December 2004

*Born:* February 28, 1932; Joliet, IL  
*Parents:* John Randel and Barbara O. (Warnisher) Wendell  
*Entered From:* St. Mary (Carmelite), Joliet, IL  
*Postulancy:* January 25, 1959  
*Novitiate:* August 13, 1959  
*Profession:* August 13, 1966  
*Entered New Life:* December 20, 2004

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**Ministry History**

1961-1962 Student; College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL  
1962-1963 Teacher; Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH  
1963-1965 Prefect of Girls; Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL  
1965-1966 Teacher; St. Mary School, Mt. Vernon, IL  
1966-1973 Prefect of Senior Girls; Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL  
1973-1976 Child Care Worker; Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL  
1976-1977 Administrative Assistant; Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL  
1977-1980 Guidance Counselor; St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL  
1980-1982 Student; University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, CO  
1982-1987 Director of Guidance; St. Mary High School, Colorado Springs, CO  
1987-1990 Guidance Counselor; Rampart High School, Colorado Springs, CO  
1990-1994 Guidance Counselor; Joliet Catholic Academy, Joliet, IL  
1994-1995 Sabbatical; Shorewood, IL  
1995-1996 Counselor; St. Mary High School, Cascade, CO  
1996-2000 Director of Counseling; St. Mary High School, Colorado Springs, CO  
2000-2004 Retired

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*Wake:* Thursday, December 23, 2004, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  
*Wake Service:* Thursday, December 23, 2004, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  
*Mass of Christian Burial:* Thursday, December 23, 2004, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  
*Burial:* Friday, December 24, 2004; leaving Our Lady of Angels at 8:30 a.m. to  
Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL  
*Interment:* S8-L4-G6, Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL

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*Survived by:* Sisters Bernadine Altenhoff and Lorraine LaFleur , sisters-in-law Delores (Bernard) Wendell, Wanda (Paul) and Louise (Emmett) Wendell, brother-in-law William (Rose) Smith, and nieces and nephews.

*Rest in Peace , Sister Joan*