

Sister Madonna Wiemers, O.S.F.



Born: September 25, 1905
 Parents: John and Mary (Schaller)
 Entered from: St. Joseph, Freeport, IL
 Postulancy: February 2, 1932
 Novitiate: August 12, 1932
 Profession: August 12, 1934
 Died: Sunday, October 11, 1998 at Provena St. Joseph Medical Center,
 Joliet, IL at approximately 10:10 a.m.

Ministry:

1934 - 1935 St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Sacristan
 1935 - 1943 Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL, Prefect
 1943 - 1944 Our Lady of Mercy, Granville, OH, Domestic Work
 1944 - 1952 Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, OH, Domestic Work
 1952 - 1953 St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL, Domestic Work
 1953 - 1954 St. Stephen, Streator, IL, Domestic Work
 1954 - 1956 Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH, Domestic Work
 1956 - 1960 St. Pascal, Chicago, IL, Domestic Work
 1960 - 1964 Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL, Domestic Work
 1964 - 1967 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, Domestic Work
 1967 - 1974 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Domestic Work
 1974 - 1980 St. Rita, Aurora, IL, Food Service
 1980 - 1994 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Laundress Aide
 1994 - 1998 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Tuesday, October 13, 1998
 2-7 p.m. with prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
 Tuesday, October 13, 1998 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial: Wednesday, October 14, 1998 leaving Our Lady of Angels at
 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL, S8 - L337 - G3

Survived by: her sister Margaret Connors (Freeport, IL) and nieces and nephews

*For those who have been faithful, O Lord,
life is not ended, but merely changed.*

Sister Madonna Wiemers was born in Freeport, Illinois on September 25, 1905 to John and Mary Schaller Wiemers. In Baptism she received the name Lucy and was the first born of four children: her brothers, John and George and her sister, Magdalen. The family was active at St. Joseph Church in Freeport. The pastor, Father Nicholas J. Berg, wrote to recommend Lucy Wiemers as a candidate for the community, "I can assure you that her moral character, habits and dispositions are such that she promises to make a religious of the finest type."

Sometime after the death of her father, as a young woman of twenty-six, Lucy came to Joliet to be received as a postulant with the Joliet Franciscan Sisters. The following August, Lucy was admitted to the novitiate and received the new name of Sister Mary Madonna.

Following her first profession of vows on August 12, 1934, Sister Madonna spent one year at St. Clement Parish in Chicago, before coming to Guardian Angel Home in Joliet where she was actively engaged in a ministry close to her heart, her care for the young boys at Guardian Angel Home. Sister Madonna described these days as the happiest days of her life. It is obvious that they were also significant days for the young boys in her charge. Over the many years she kept in contact with many of them. These boys, now themselves senior citizens, would come to visit Sister Madonna and recall the motherly image she had been to them in their youth. Sister Madonna ministered at Guardian Angel Home for a total of twelve years.

Sister Madonna also ministered to our Sisters by doing various services in convents in Granville, Shelby and Columbus, Ohio and in Illinois at Streator, Chicago and Joliet, at St. Francis Academy and at Our Lady of Angels. In 1978 she reflected on her ministry writing: "We realize the deeper our own interior harmony with the Lord, the more effective the peace we extend to others."

Sister Madonna was known for her spirit of prayer and dedication. She had a special devotion to the Sacred Heart and to the Blessed Mother. She loved to write and to receive letters from friends and family. The activity room at OLA was brightened by her presence at so many events. Among her specialities were latchhooking, knitting, crocheting and sewing.

Sister Madonna had moved to Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home in 1967, but did not officially retire until 1994, and even then helped out in various ways as her health and energy permitted. Toward the end of September, Sister Madonna was admitted to Provena St. Joseph Medical Center for tests because of abdominal pain. The 93 years of her life began to take its toll on her body. On October 11, 1998, as the Sisters gathered at the Motherhouse Chapel for Sunday Mass Sister Madonna peacefully returned to the God to whom she had given her life.

Sister Madonna, we thank you for the pleasure of your presence over these 66 years with us in community. We ask you to pray for us, your sisters, your family members and your friends at Guardian Angel Home that we may continue to live our lives in service of others. May you now experience the joy of the children of God who live in the presence of God forever. Amen. Alleluia.

