



Sister Lawrence Churko

August 13, 1928 - January 9, 2022

Sr. M. Lawrence Churko F.D.C passed away peacefully at St. Joseph Hill Convent on Sunday January 9, 2022. Following the advice and encouragement of their countrymen, John Churko and Catherine Boda also became determined to try their good fortune in the Land of Plenty and the world of great possibilities. After experiencing various areas, they joined the Hungarian Colony in Toledo Ohio. It was a good move and soon Mr. Churko found satisfying work and Catherine was well accepted by the women who introduced her to profitable work. Because both were busy in their new settlement, they no longer were under any strain or anxiety. John and Catherine became friends and eventually married. Within time their fondest dream materialized and they were blest with fifteen children. Unfortunately, many of them died in early childhood. The good parents were very saddened by their loss but continued to love and nourish their remaining children. The last child born was Mary Ann, born on August 13, 1928. She enjoyed the love of her dear mother, but her mother died when she was just three and a half years old. The Daughters of Divine Charity proposed that the bereaved father send his youngest child, to St. Elizabeth's Orphanage in Detroit, an adjunct of Holy Cross Church. Mary Ann spent 10 years at the home, nurtured, guided and loved by the Sisters. It was here that she received her elementary education. Later she attended St. Joseph Hill Academy in Staten Island for several years. Her two sisters and a brother eventually established themselves very well and had Mary Ann join them, share their life, and attend

the Central Catholic High School from which she graduated in 1948.

On September 12, 1948 she entered the familiar grounds of St. Joseph Hill Convent as a candidate. Here she continued the basic tenets of Community Life. Because of her sincere desire to become a Religious, she was invited to enter the Novitate on August 16, 1949, receiving the name of Sister M. Lawrence. This was a special time to deepen her prayer life and learn the sacredness of her Religious Vows. On August 15, 1951 she made her Simple Profession and on August 16, 1956 her Final profession.

By her kind nature and love for children, she was assigned to the teaching profession. For her preparation she attended various colleges and received her BA with a major in History and a minor in Education.

In the East she taught in Roebing, New Brunswick and Trenton New Jersey as well as in South Bend, Indiana. She spent 43 years in California, at St. Therese and St Charles in San Diego and in St. Joseph's in Fontana.

Sister Lawrence was a concerned kind teacher, who loved and understood children. During these years she was the Superior, Principal, Sacristan and CCD teacher. She fulfilled each of these positions with distinction.

Sister loved all sports especially baseball and was very partial to the Los Angeles Angels. She was a good driver and willingly accompanied the Sisters to their destinations.

In 1999 she was assigned as Vice Principial of St. Joseph Hill Academy. It was a responsible assignment but she knew with God's help and the support of her Community, she would succeed to please God, the children and their parents.

Mr. Hansen, the current Elementary School Principal, spoke of Sister's warm personality and her sense of humor. When she first met Mr. Hansen she asked him how he preferred to be called; Larry or Lawrence, he replied Larry. Sister said that's good, I prefer Lawrence and I would not want people to confuse the two of us. Her remarked that her presence in the school was invaluable, how she so enjoyed being around the school children, helping prepare them for the Sacrements of Penance and Communion and .the joy she took in setting the Chapel up for Mass,

Visitation for Sister will be on Thursday January 13, 2022 in the Chapel at St. Josphe Hill Academy from 2-4 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 4: 30. Sister will be laid to rest in St. Ignatius Cemeteyp in Orgeon Ohio on Janary 25, 2022.

Contributions to Sisters Memory can be made the the Daughters of Divine Charity

Cemetery Details

ST Ignatius Cemetery

212 North Stadium RD
Oregon, OH 43616

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **13**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

St. Joseph Hill Convent
850 Hylan Blvd
Staten Island, NY 10305

Service

JAN **25** (ET)

ST Ignatius Cemetery
212 North Stadium RD
Oregon, OH 43616

Tribute Wall

BM

“ Sister Lawrence was my 1st grade teacher back in 1991 at St. Joseph's in Fontana California. She definitely shaped me into the woman I am today. I remember staying after school and erasing the chalk boards and cleaning up. She and Sister Claveria would not keep possessions and would often give me their treats or gifts that they received for birthdays and holidays. They showed me the convent and it stood out how they only had their habits, shoes, rosaries and Bible. No other possessions. I admired her so much and really learned what love and faith was from her. I wanted to be a nun because of her but she told me if I really wanted that it was beautiful but that I couldn't have children. I wanted children so she said I would be ok. Now here I am 34 years later and I am a mother to 7 children and still keep her memory and lessons with me today. She is truly missed and I know she is up in heaven smiling.

Brigette Shanae Padilla Mayoral - August 20, 2025 at 10:07 AM



“ Sister Lawrence Churko

October 04, 2023 at 06:13 PM

LJ

“ Sr. Lawrence was my 1st grade teacher. Full of life, laughter and love. She was brilliant in the way she handled her class, even scoldings I remember with fondness! She was an Angel on earth. May she Rest In Peace with our Lord.

Lucy June - January 19, 2022 at 10:44 AM

MP

“ I had Sister Laurence in 61/62 at St. Joseph in Fontana. I SOOO REMEMBER her class, like yesterday & to think she was so young & a new teacher!! She was soo GREAT!! My brother, Andrew loved her, I think she was easier on the boys.
RIP Sister Laurence, I know you have a direct way to Heaven 🙏❤️

Mary Jo Pompura - January 19, 2022 at 12:01 AM

CH

“ Sister Laurence was my 1st grade teacher at St. Joseph Academy in Fontana in 1986 and I can remember her like it was yesterday. I specifically remember reciting how to spell our numbers every morning. She had them displayed above the chalkboard and we would study and then have to turn around and face the back of the classroom and recite their spelling. She was truly an angel on earth. I am deeply sorry for your loss and I wish you all strength. May your memories with her sustain you until you meet again.
-Catherine Horzen

Catherine Horzen - January 13, 2022 at 11:00 PM

AL

“ Sister Lawrence was my first grade teacher at St Joseph’s Academy in 1957....there were four of us (Kathy, Ginnie, Barbara and Ann) who were lucky enough to be assigned her after school “helpers” and on Saturday’s helped her clean the Church and sanctuary. We knew we were special when she gave us privy to her candy drawer, located in the bottom drawer on the right side of her desk!! We felt privileged, honored and protected by her until the day we graduated from 8th grade. Over the years our family kept in touch and brought her to a few Angel baseball games were we saw a true Angel fan!! She also loved to walk and she would have us walking the junior high track in the evenings... she was a hard one to keep up with!! We were sad when she was transferred to New York but she was an excellent communicator keeping us well updated. Her life was certainly a “Life Well Lived” and her memories and teachings will be with me, my sister and friends forever! She certainly was a gift from God who proved herself worthy here on earth.
Sister Lawrence, you are loved and will be greatly missed. Thank you for your kindness, wisdom, teaching and especially your fun loving spirit! Until we all meet again, hugs, love and kisses. 🤗❤️
Ann Mitchell Luttringer

Ann Mitchell Luttringer - January 12, 2022 at 02:11 PM

JG

“ Sr. Lawrence was a special woman and one-of-a-kind! She touched so many lives, and will be missed by all who knew her. May she rest in sweet peace.



Joanne Del George - January 12, 2022 at 12:19 PM

CA

“ Sr. Lawrence was my 1st grade teacher at St. Charles in San Diego. I always remember her Missions collection piggy bank... a baseball cap! I know how much she loved the Angels! I even remeber attending a Padres game or 2 with her. For several years of my teaching career I taught 1st grade and often thought of her during those years. For about 5 years during elementary school years, my sister and I spent our Saturday mornings helping her clean and set up the church for Sunday masses. I learned alot about being a Sacristan and even today serve in a similar role as a volunteer liturgical minister and credit her for introducing me this ministry. Sr. Lawrence, your life was well lived. Thank you for your vocation, presence and witness to our faith and your impact to probably thousands of students and families. Rest in eternal peace with our Lord. 🙏 Cathy

Cathy - January 12, 2022 at 10:27 AM

SW

that is a beautiful tribute. I credit the Sisters who taught me, first at St. Therese Acad in San Diego and then at Our Lady of Peace, for emulating such Godly and simply beautiful lives. I didn't know Sr. Lawrence, sadly but I often think of her Sisters who I had the privilege to know. RIP with Our Lord, Sister.

Sarah Worthington - January 12, 2022 at 01:43 PM

BZ

“ Sister Lawrence was my first grade teacher at St. Joseph's Academy in Fontana, CA. She was a kind and gentle soul who had a lot of patience with me since I was a bit behind. We managed to keep in contact and on a trip to NY, my family went to visit her and she reiterated memories from my time as a student. God has truly received an angel.

Brigitte Zapata - January 12, 2022 at 08:01 AM