



**Sr. Louise Wilxman, OP**

*November 18, 1923 – May 10, 2010*

Sr. Louise Wilxman (86) died on Monday, May 10, 2010, at Mohun Health Care Center in her 55<sup>th</sup> year of religious profession.

Born to William and Marcella (Vivier) Wilxman in Columbus, Ohio, Louise was one of four children. She entered the Novitiate of the former Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs (Columbus) in 1953 and made her First Profession of Vows as Sr. Mary Linus in 1955.

Sr. Louise earned a BA in French from St. Mary of the Springs College (now Ohio Dominican University) and an MA and PhD in English literature from the Ohio State University, where she also studied speech and theatre. She ministered as a teacher at many schools: Christ the King, Columbus (1955-56); Holy Trinity, Somerset, Ohio (1956-57); St. Mary High School, Lancaster, Ohio (1957-60); Watterson High School, Columbus (1960-61); Albertus Magnus College, New Haven, Connecticut (1961-62); and Ohio Dominican College, Columbus (1966-94). She taught at the Dominican Learning Center in Columbus since its founding in 1994 and continued in that capacity until just recently.

Sr. Louise was always grateful for her vocation and for God's perseverance and commitment throughout her life. She entered the convent at age 30, but claimed that even during her high school years, the "Hound of Heaven" pursued her. She evaded him for many years, too busy and ultimately too afraid, she said, of answering her true calling until he finally "caught" her, and she never looked back!

Throughout her ministry of teaching, Sr. Louise's love of literature, art, and music grew, as did her perspectives on life, humanity, and her vocation. Whereas once she felt almost puzzled about the concept of preaching as part of Dominican life, more than a decade ago she experienced what she called a "conversion." Thereafter she fully embraced the charism of the Order and saw herself as a true Preacher of God's Word, explaining, "if the Dominican woman in truly committed, she, by her very dedication, is called to 'preach' through her relationships, her work, her duties, her very passing through life."

It was in her ministry at Dominican Learning Center that Sr. Louise found the most satisfaction and her greatest pulpit for preaching. There, she went the extra mile to truly teach her students and empower them to better their lives – from the immigrant doctor able to work in his field because of improved English skills, to the inner city single mom now able to help her children with their homework, and more. She will be remembered as a gifted teacher, poet, artist, musician, writer, and, indeed, preacher.

Sr. Louise was preceded in death by her parents and her brother. She is survived by two sisters, including Dominican Sister of Peace Helen Wilxman, and by many nieces and nephews.

The wake for Sr. Louise will be held Friday, May 14, at 3pm followed by evening prayer and a Vigil of Remembrance at 5pm in the Columbus Motherhouse Chapel. The funeral Mass will be held on Saturday, May 15, at 9am in the Columbus Motherhouse Chapel. Burial will follow at St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Memorial gifts in Sr. Louise's memory may be sent to Dominican Sisters of Peace at 2320 Airport Dr., Columbus, OH 43219-2098.