



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sister Julie Wiegard, SSND
September 2, 1925 - December 28, 2017



CHICAGO – Sister Julie Wiegard, SSND, died on December 28, 2017, at Resurrection Life Center, Chicago. Sister Julie was a vowed member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame for 73 years.

Jutta Maria Wiegard was born on September 2, 1925, in Leignitz, Germany, the second child and first daughter of Carl Wiegard and Maria Kowalski. Her parents ran a grocery store there, until, at the request of relatives, the family moved to Chicago. There the relatives called the 9-month-old baby Julie, and that became her name thereafter.

The family settled in the German parish of St. Alphonsus, Chicago, where Julie’s sister was born in 1933. Julie attended St. Alphonsus Grade School for her elementary education. In her autobiography, Julie remembered that “During my entire school days at Saint Alphonsus my greatest joy was to stay each evening after school to help Sister clean the room. It seemed I just felt happier being with the Sisters.”

Upon graduation from St. Alphonsus, Julie received her parents’ permission to enter the aspiranture at the Academy of Our Lady, Longwood (Chicago). After two years in the aspiranture, she entered the candidature in Milwaukee on September 2, 1941, her 16th birthday. Julie was received into the novitiate on August 4, 1943, receiving the name Sister Joachim Marie.

Sister Julie was professed on August 5, 1944. Her first obedience sent her to teach first grade in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. She later taught and was principal at several other schools in Wisconsin and Illinois, including St. Joachim in Pittsville, Wisconsin, and St. Margaret of Scotland, Chicago; St. Anne, Dixon; St. Bernadette, Rockford; and St. James, Highwood, all in Illinois. She particularly enjoyed the excitement of first graders, as they discovered the world around

them. Julie was noted, too, as an innovative principal, eager to try new projects and ways of organizing a school program.

Sister Julie received a B.A. in Education from Mount Mary College, Milwaukee, in 1959, and a Master of Education in Administration from De Paul University, Chicago, in 1968. Due to an unexpected legal oversight, Julie was surprised to find that she had not been naturalized as a U.S. citizen as an infant, and received her naturalization papers in Chicago in 1967.

In 1981, Sister Julie and Sister Miriam Patrick Cummings hosted the Chicago Province's SSND Educational Conference, with the theme "Prophetic Word, Pastoral Heart." After a year of preparation in 1980-1981, Julie became the postulants' director for the Chicago province. In addition, Sister Julie served in pastoral care at St. Joseph the Worker in Wheeling, Illinois from 1981 to 1985.

In the summer of 1982, Sister Julie participated in the Global Apostolic Awareness Program offered by SSND. She spent four weeks in Honduras, and later reflected, "You might ask me, how was my consciousness raised by this experience? My response would be, my consciousness wasn't raised, it was lowered. What I knew in my head was moved down to my heart." The experience deepened her already intense care for people, in whatever situation. In 1985, Sister Julie moved into the position of novice directress, in St. Louis, Missouri, where she served for three years.

Her interest in and care for her community led Sister Julie to service as local leader for retired Sisters at St. Benedict Convent and the Academy of Our Lady, both in Chicago, from 1990 to 2001. She also served as nursing home advocate and in community service at Resurrection Life Center, Chicago; and Marian Village, Homer Glen, Illinois.

Visitation and a wake service were held on January 2 at Resurrection Life Center. Visitation, a wake service and the Mass of Christian Burial were held at Marian Village on January 3, followed by interment at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Alsip, Illinois.

Memorial contributions may be made to the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Atlantic Midwest Province, c/o Development Office, 345 Belden Hill Road, Wilton, Conn. 06897 or online: www.amssnd.org

