



BENEDICTINE SISTERS

SACRED HEART MONASTERY
in CULLMAN, ALABAMA

916 Convent Road NE, Cullman, AL 35055 ~ www.shmon.org ~ (256)734-4622

July 13, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE _____

CULLMAN—Sister Ursula Laurent, O.S.B., a Benedictine Sister of Sacred Heart Monastery in Cullman, AL, died July 12, 2016, at the monastery, at the age of 88.

Vespers of the Dead will be prayed Friday, July 15, in Sacred Heart Monastery Chapel in Cullman, followed by Visitation. The Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, July 16, at 10:00 AM, with interment in the monastery cemetery to follow.

Born in 1928 in Wallace, LA, to Alcide and Laure Laurent, Sister Ursula was baptized at St. John the Baptist Parish in Edgard, LA. She entered the community of St. Scholastica Priory in Covington, LA, in 1949 and soon began studies at Loyola University in New Orleans, earning a B.S. degree in Education. The ministry of teaching suited Sr. Ursula well. For 38 years she taught within the Archdiocese of New Orleans, serving at both the elementary and high school levels with a focus in French, history, and mathematics. She also served as Principal at two schools. A particularly favorite assignment was her lengthy period of service at Our Lady of the Lake High School in Mandeville, LA, where she taught for 13 years and later served in parish ministry. In addition to her work in education, Sister served within the monastic community on several committees.

In 1991, following the closure of St. Scholastica Priory, Sister Ursula transferred to Sacred Heart Monastery in Cullman, bringing with her a generous heart, a willing spirit, and a strong dash of good humor. After settling in Cullman, Sister undertook a ministry assignment at Benedictine Manor, where she quickly became a favorite of the residents in her service as Administrative Assistant, and later as Director of Admissions. She also served in the Community's Development Office and in several other capacities within the monastery.

Sister Ursula had a particular fondness for serving as a Lector, and her strong, clear proclamations of the Word of God were appreciated by those who heard her read. She was

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dedicated to prayer, faithfully attending the community's liturgical celebrations up until the end, and steadfastly devoted to personal prayer. Sister could often be found in her room, rosary in hand, praying for her family, her monastic community, and for the needs of the world.

Sr. Ursula remained ever-proud of her Louisiana heritage and often recounted stories from her years there. Her seemingly-endless supply of Louisiana tales enlivened many community gatherings and dinner conversations. She enjoyed various needle-crafts, and her contributions to the Cullman County Fair netted her numerous prize ribbons. In her later years, Sister Ursula continued to serve within the monastery, including assisting in the Development Office and taking regular turns as a receptionist at the monastery entrance, a ministry of hospitality that she fulfilled up until the day before she died.

Sister Ursula was preceded in death by her parents; by her brothers, Alcide, Sidney, Sebastian, and Julius; and by her sister Rita L. Zeringue.

Survivors include her Benedictine Sisters, brother Harold Laurent, sister Audry Laurent, and numerous nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL, 916 Convent Rd., Cullman, AL, 35055.

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