

Sister Renata Leigey
Aug 9, 1932 — Oct 28, 2026

Sister Renata Liegey, 94, died October 28, 2026, at St. Scholastica Monastery in her 64th year of consecrated life, after a life of creative service. Born Margaret Liegey on August 9, 1932 in Karthaus, PA, she developed an early passion for art, and after high school moved to New York City to study art. Drawn to the Duluth Benedictines by their devotion to the Eucharist and Divine Office, she braved Duluth's notorious winters and entered the Community. She was a high school art teacher, taught arts and crafters at St. Gertrude's School in Washington DC, and was a massage therapist and T'ai Chi Chih instructor. Within the Monastery she served as Director of Hospitality.

Looking back on her life, she wrote, "The Light continues to call each of us, though our paths are diverse and our understanding blurred. My constant prayer is that others may find the peace and happiness on their own journey."

Sister Renata was preceded in death by parents Hilary Clement and Gladys Gertrude (Schultz) Liegey, brother Joseph, and sister Dolores Bonnard. She is survived by nieces and nephews, many friends, and the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery.

Wake (9:45 am) and Funeral Mass (10:45 am) will be on Monday, November 2, in Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel at the Monastery, with Father Corbin Eddy presiding. Livestream begins at 9:45 am; go to duluthbenedictines.org and click on link. Interment will be in Gethsemane Cemetery. Arrangements by Dougherty Funeral Home.

https://www.doughertyfuneralduluth.com/obituaries/sister-renata-leigey?ttm_pid=212693909&ttm_affiliate=legacypro&ttm_affiliatetype=standard&ttm_campaign=legacy

Sister Renata Liegey

By Theresa Butler



Sister Renata Liegey has lived a life of faith, kindness, creativity, and passion as a Benedictine sister. Born Margaret Louise (Peggy Lou) in 1932 in Karthus, Penn., she grew up in a devout Catholic family. Early in her life, she developed a passion for art, and after high school attended art classes in New York. For health reasons she was advised to go to Arizona for the winter and stayed in Phoenix for ten years, working as an X-ray technologist and studying with a sculptor. Drawn to the Duluth Benedictines by their devotion to the Eucharist and Divine Office, she professed first vows in 1963 and final vows in 1966, taking the name Sister Renata, which means "reborn." She earned her bachelor's degree in art at the College of St. Scholastica.

She returned to Phoenix, where she lived with her sisters at St. Thomas the Apostle Convent, and taught art at Gerard High School. Returning to Minnesota, she helped form House of Peace, an ecumenical house of prayer in Winton. She was next sent to St. Gertrude's School in Washington, D.C., to teach arts and crafts to developmentally challenged girls. She recalled, "This precious ministry, the memory of which I'll always cherish, lasted some 18 years."

Following her time in Washington, D.C., Sister Renata spent two years at the Franciscan Center of Wholistic Living in Saint Paul and studied at the Minneapolis School of Massage and Body Work, becoming a certified massage therapist as well as a T'ai Chi Chih (TCC) instructor. For the next 20 years she ran her own business called Tranquil Touch and provided services at Woman Well to religious women from all parts of the globe who were taking part in sabbatical programs.

In 2010, Sister Renata returned to the monastery and continued in a variety of ministries including spiritual direction, teaching Ta'i Chi Chih classes at McCabe and the monastery, and prayer ministry. She once said, "I gratefully give praise to God, whose Spirit continues to animate and guide me along my journey."