

Wilbers, Mary Margaret Schumer 1923 - 2001

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Marg Wilbers, 77, teacher, lay pastoral minister, mom

Marg Wilbers was an ordained, lay pastoral minister at Holy Cross Church in Latonia and a former teacher who founded a social club for middle-aged people and started a health care program at her church. She also was the best of mothers, said Diana Timmerding of Latonia, who followed in her mother's footsteps by becoming a teacher. "She was just a very faith-filled woman and a living example of God in the world," Mrs. Timmerding said.

Marg Wilbers died Sunday afternoon at her home. She was 77.

Ms. Wilbers was born and reared in Latonia. She earned a master's degree in education at the former Villa Madonna College, now Thomas More College in Crestview Hills. She worked 27 years for the Holy Cross schools, teaching grade school and then high school. When she retired from the school system, she was teaching high school English and also was chairwoman of the English department.

"She was very young at heart, and she loved to be with young people," said Mrs. Timmerding, who is chairwoman of the English department at Notre Dame Academy in Park Hills. During Ms. Wilbers' final two years of teaching, she took courses sponsored by the Diocese of Covington to become a lay pastoral minister.

She was a minister at Holy Cross Church for about 10 years. At Holy Cross, Ms. Wilbers founded the Over 50 Club and the Holy Cross Health Cabinet. The health cabinet offered parishioners free blood-pressure tests and flu shots in the back of the church. Among the nurses helping out were her daughters, Mariann Cahill of Latonia and Lynn Ann Heath and JoAnn Payne, both of Cincinnati. "Mother was always looking for what she could do to meet the needs of the various age groups," said Mrs. Timmerding.

Besides her daughters, she is survived by a son, James E. Wilbers of Pittsburgh; a brother, Donald Louis Schumer of Crestview Hills; 19 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Mass of Christian burial will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Holy Cross Church in Latonia. Visitation will be from 3 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the church. Burial will be in Mother of God Cemetery in Fort Wright.

Memorials are suggested to Holy Cross Church, 3612 Church St., Covington, Ky. 41015; or the charity of the donor's choice.

Connley Brothers Funeral Home in Latonia is handling arrangements.