



A Life and a Legacy of Catholic Values



Ruth Lang was a school teacher who lived humbly and valued her privacy. She belonged to Christ the King Parish in Columbus. During her life, she never donated to The Catholic Foundation, but apparently, she knew of our work. When she died in late 2007, she left the largest part of her estate to The Catholic Foundation – an amount in excess of \$1.3 million.

Ruth's closest relative tells us that Ruth was so private that she would not have wanted her photo printed, because Ruth "never wanted any fuss during her lifetime." But we have been able to learn a little about this extraordinary woman.



Ruth's Story

Ruth graduated from The Ohio State University in 1926 and earned her Master's in Education from Columbia University in 1927, at a time when advanced degrees for women were very rare. She taught at South High School for her entire career, retiring in 1969. In her annual evaluation from 1941, her principal notes, "Your pupils love you – a fine recommendation for any teacher!"

She and her sister Josephine never married and neither had any children. They lived together their entire lives until Josephine's death in 1979. Ruth lived to be almost 103 years old with all her mental faculties intact to the end. She gave generously her extended family, and then to the Catholic Church, WOSU, her sorority, many disease organizations and veterans groups.

Ruth's Legacy

Ruth's bequest was large, it is true. But we cherish Ruth and her gift to us not so much because of its size as because of its nature. She lived a humble, modest life. In her will, she remembered her family members generously and gave to many charities whose work she admired. And at the end, the gift she gave to The Catholic Foundation will help others far into the future. Ruth's giving was born of her Catholic values.

Thank you, Ruth, for your gift and for your example.