



## Drucilla M. Ronchen

May 8, 1950 - March 10, 2021

Drucilla Madeline Ronchen May 8th, 1950 - March 10, 2021

Drucilla Ronchen, 70, passed away on March 10th, 2021 at her home in Chicago, Illinois where she was also born. She was the daughter of Theresa and Merle F. Ronchen.

She graduated from St. Rita's School for the Deaf in Cincinnati, Ohio. She came to a decision to retire after working for 35 years as an ASL Professor at the University of Chicago.

She enjoyed painting a lot. She loved to travel internationally. She was also a well-known DeafBlind Advocate.

She is survived by her son, Andrew Gabel. She is also survived by her siblings; Marlene, Mark and Merle D. As well as her nieces and nephew; Sabrina, William and Paige. She was predeceased by her parents, Theresa and Merle F. as well as her two siblings Karen and Kevin.

Memorial donations may be made to the DeafBlind Services Minnesota in Minneapolis, MN. <https://visionlossresources.org/training/dbsm/>

# Previous Events

## Memorial Mass

MAR 18. 11:00 AM (CT)

St Francis Borgia Roman Catholic Church  
8033 W Addison St  
Chicago, IL 60634  
(773) 625-1118

# Tribute Wall

AT

“ Hey! Gee! Have her book with her personal signature inside. What a small world!? I luckily bought it through the online order the other day..Just learned more upon her obituary also. May she rest in peace now and forever. 🙏

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**Anatoli Stephen Turbin** - September 16, 2025 at 01:17 PM

ME

“ I just discovered that she passed away. I'm so sorry for your loss. She was my professor at U of C and also introduced me to her local Deaf community. Her down to earth acceptance of all people and her willingness to help others was inspiring.

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**mele** - October 05, 2023 at 11:47 AM

KR

“ Andy,  
I would have made it to the memorial service, unfortunately I had to work overtime. Your mom was a wonderful person and friend to me over these years since you and I were in the same sign language class at Siegel Institute at Michael Reese hospital over 40 years ago.  
I am really sorry about your mom. She will be missed  
Hope to see you around sometime at Deaf events  
Keith Rokicki  
Email me at [rkrokicki@gmail.com](mailto:rkrokicki@gmail.com) or call me at 708 248 8041 VP.

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**Keith Rokicki** - March 18, 2021 at 10:46 PM

TK

“ *Drucilla and I were at St. Rita's in the same first holy communion class. I have the class picture if you want a copy. I am very sorry for your loss.*



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**Terry Kohut** - March 16, 2021 at 12:14 PM

AT

*Tell me where you stood with Drucilla at St.Rita's school in the picture? What name each kid?? Thx for sharing this interesting past picture also.*

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**Anatoli Stephen Turbin** - September 16, 2025 at 01:21 PM