

Sisters of St. Francis

of Mary Immaculate

Our Sister Carole von Buelow was born the youngest of three children to Bodo and Winifred (Geary) von Buelow on December 27, 1937, on Chicago's north side. She and her sister Carlene and brother Robert were raised in a loving and supportive German-Irish Catholic family. She graduated from St. Clement grade school and high school where she encountered the Joliet Franciscans she would join directly from high school.

Growing up in Chicago was formative in Carole's life. She had an early and life-long allegiance to the Chicago Cubs, recalling attending games on Ladies Day – and dressing up to do so. She retained and stayed in touch with her girlhood friends from St. Clement throughout her life. She did not learn to drive as a teenager, as so many people do, because she had no need to do so. She rode public transportation as did her parents. In fact, it was well into her adulthood that she finally obtained a driver's license, though she always shied away from highways. Although reticent about driving, that was certainly not one of the characteristics of her professional or religious life. Carole was a decisive, clear-thinking, innovative educator, consultant and administrator. As far back as her freshman year in college, one of her superiors wrote that she would be well-positioned for graduate school in whatever subject she would pursue. That intellect and discipline would serve her and so many others well for the almost 50 years she spent in education.

Carole earned a BS in biology from the College of St. Francis followed by an MS in biology from St. Mary University in Winona, Minnesota. She completed many other courses at a variety of universities in Texas and Ohio as part of her continuing professional development. One of Carole's favorite memories was of "mucking around" in muddy rivers in fishing waders to catch specimens for her master's thesis. Little wonder that she was able to "hook" her students on the beauty and wonder of biological studies. In her years at St. Francis Academy and especially during her long tenure at St. Thomas Aquinas in

Alleluia!



Sister Carole von Buelow, OSF

Louisville, Ohio, Carole took on many roles, never shying away from challenges. She taught biology, chemistry and religion, but also served as club moderator, department chairperson and eventually dean of students. Upon leaving high school ministry, Carole became Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the Diocese of Youngstown, Ohio. Still later, she and her great friend and educational partner, Sr. Magdalita Morvay, researched and wrote a manual for the instruction of new teachers in Catholic schools. As her final act in education, instead of moving to part time work, Carole accepted the position of principal of St. Louis School in Louisville, where she served for 17 years. When she was nominated for the Golden Apple Award in the diocese (which she received), people wrote glowing recommendations:

"Sister Carole is a progressive leader, expecting our staff to learn new and innovative ways to teach our students, to keep up with trends yet remember those things that work." Others called her "leader and friend" at the same time. Said one young teacher, "She has cried and prayed with me through difficult times and laughed and cheered with me in celebrations." Our sisters would say much the same about Carole as a community member: though a true Vatican II woman religious, she continued to value some of the more traditional ways to express our faith. She continued to learn, to read deeply, to take all challenges from the Congregation seriously in discussions, reflections, meetings and chapters.

Sister Carole von Buelow, OSF

December 27, 1937—July 9, 2023

In recent years, Carole faced the profound isolation of COVID, as she still lived alone in Louisville. Friends made calls, sisters engaged in regular Zoom meetings, nieces touched base with her, but Carole was alone at a time when her health would have benefited by being with others. In coming to Joliet for care, Carole did struggle with declining health and being far from so

many to whom she was closest. Her door at OLA was always open, though, as an invitation to people to drop in and visit. We pray now that she is finding peace, consolation, friendships renewed in the heavenly home to which God has welcomed her. Amen! Alleluia!

<i>Born:</i>	December 27, 1937
<i>Parents:</i>	Bodo C. von Buelow and Winifred Geary
<i>Postulancy:</i>	September 8, 1956
<i>Novitiate:</i>	August 13, 1957
<i>First Profession:</i>	August 12, 1959
<i>Final Profession:</i>	August 13, 1964
<i>Entered New Life:</i>	July 9, 2023

Ministry History

1959-1960	Student: College of St. Francis, Joliet, Illinois
1960-1961	Teacher: Sophomore Homeroom, Biology, Guidance, St. Francis Academy, Joliet, Illinois
1961-1967	Teacher: Freshman Homeroom, Biology, Religion, Science, Chemistry, Biology, Visual Aids Moderator, Mardi Gras Chairman, Sophomore Class Moderator, St. Francis Academy
1967-1972	Teacher: Biology, Advanced Biology, Student Council Moderator, St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Louisville, Ohio
1972-1976	Teacher and Dean: St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Louisville, Ohio
1976-1985	Dean of Girls: St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Louisville
1986-1987	Administrative Assistant: St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Louisville
1987-1988	Sabbatical
1988-1990	Education Research and Consulting: Residence, Louisville
1990-1991	Director of Program for Entry Level Teachers: Residence, Louisville
1991-1996	Director of Curriculum and Instruction: Diocese Office, Youngstown, Ohio
1996-2013	Principal: St. Louis School, Louisville, Ohio
2013-2018	Volunteer Ministry: St. Joseph Care Center, American Cancer Society, St. Michael School, St. Thomas Aquinas High School
2018-2021	Volunteer: Ministry and Presence, Louisville
2021-2023	Ministry of Prayer and Presence, Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, Illinois
2023	Ministry of Prayer and Presence, Ascension Villa Franciscan Place, Joliet, Illinois

<i>Interment:</i>	Section 8, Lot 329, Grave 5B, Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, Illinois
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	Her parents, Bodo C. von Buelow and Winifred Geary, her sister, Carlene Cottone and her brother Robert von Buelow
<i>Survived by:</i>	Her grand nieces, cousins, colleagues, students and many friends

Rest in Peace, Sister Carole!