

Sisters of St. Francis

o f M a r y I m m a c u l a t e

Elaine Rose Schneider was born in Columbus, Ohio, to Marie (Reidelbach) and Charles Schneider on December 23, 1926. She was raised in a large blended family with one blood sister, Adrienne, and two stepsisters, Mary Beata and Roseanne, as well as two blood brothers, James and Richard, and six stepbrothers, Joseph, John, David, Charles, Paul and Francis.

After completing her education at St. Mary's and St. Dominic's grade schools and St. Mary's High School in Columbus, Elaine joined the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate in 1945 and made First Profession in 1948. Throughout her early career, she was known by her religious name, Sister M. Martha Ann. She later earned both a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a master's degree in theology from the College of St. Francis.

Elaine R. was a born teacher, excelling early in her teaching ministry, especially in the areas of math and science. She taught middle grade and junior high school students at numerous schools across the Congregation's geographic reach: Chicago; Joliet; Columbus; Fairfield, Alabama; Toledo; Champaign; and Phoenix, Arizona. Elaine expanded her educational scope as she worked with adults in Joliet Junior College's GED program for seven years in the 1970's.

Eventually Elaine made her way to St. Matthew's School in Phoenix, where she spent 22 years of her life and ministry. Working with some of Phoenix's most financially challenged families, Elaine served as teacher, vice principal and in several pastoral roles in the parish, including as an unofficial but effective social worker. With her dear friend Sister Patrice Kelly, they together enjoyed their longtime

Alleluia!



Sister Elaine R. Schneider, OSF

work at St. Matthew's and welcomed other members of our congregation and other communities as they lived together in the parish convent.

Elaine R. and Patrice also enjoyed playing hosts to many of our sisters and associates who lived in the Western United States or who traveled there to enjoy the beauty of the desert. Elaine especially loved visits from her Joliet Franciscan cousin, Sister Karen Kauderer. Elaine was known to cook foods from her German heritage including sauerbraten and potato pancakes to celebrate a jubilee or birthday of a sister or friend.

Upon leaving her beloved Arizona, Elaine — ever adaptable — began her ministry in support of the congregation's administrative team. She worked as an assistant to several General Secretaries and helped send out almost every piece of mail we received during those years. Much of it she even delivered herself, especially to Our Lady of Angels. She continued to serve our sisters at OLA as sacristan, visitor and all-around assistant until her health forced her to fully retire. After a lifetime of diligent work, creative teaching, loyal friendship and deep faith in the God you served, Elaine R., we proclaim with you: Alleluia!

Sister Elaine R. Schneider, OSF

December 23, 1926 — October 27, 2021

<i>Born:</i>	December 23, 1926
<i>Parents:</i>	Charles Schneider and Marie (Reidelbach) Schneider
<i>Postulancy:</i>	September 4, 1945
<i>Novitiate:</i>	August 12, 1946
<i>First Profession:</i>	August 12, 1948
<i>Final Profession:</i>	August 12, 1952
<i>Entered New Life:</i>	October 27, 2021

Ministry History

1948-1950	Teacher: Grade 3, Sacred Heart, Chicago, Illinois
1950-1951	Teacher Grades 3 and 4, St. Clement, Chicago
1951-1953	Teacher: Grade 4, St. Joseph, Joliet, Illinois
1953-1955	Teacher: Grade 4, St. Boniface, Chicago
1955-1956	Teacher: Grade 6, St. Mary, Columbus, Ohio
1956-1963	Teacher: Grades 5 and 6, St. Mary, Fairfield, Alabama
1963-1964	Teacher: Grade 7, St. Francis de Sales, Toledo, Ohio
1964-1965	Teacher: Grade 7, St. Peter, Mansfield, Ohio
1965-1967	Teacher: Grades 7 and 8, Immaculate Conception, Columbus, Ohio
1967-1971	Teacher: Grade 7, St. Matthew, Champaign, Illinois
1971-1972	Motherhouse, Joliet, Illinois
1972-1973	Teacher: GED, Joliet Junior College, Joliet
1973-1975	Teacher: GED, United Presbyterian Church, Romeoville, Illinois
1975-1976	Teacher: Grade 8, St. Thomas Apostle, Phoenix, Arizona
1977-1978	Teacher: GED, Joliet Junior College, Joliet
1978-1991	Teacher: Math, St. Matthew, Phoenix, Arizona
1991-1995	Teacher: Math/Vice Principal: St. Matthew, Phoenix
1995-2000	Teacher: Math, St. Matthew, Phoenix
2000-2001	Community Service: St. Francis de Sales, Chicago
2001-2011	Clerical Assistant: Congregation, Joliet
2011-2012	Companion/Driver: Our Lady of Angel Retirement Home, Joliet
2012-2013	Office Assistant: Upper Room, Joliet
2013-2015	Sacristan: Our Lady of Angel Retirement Home, Joliet
2015-2017	Outreach: Joliet
2017-2018	Volunteer Ministry: Our Lady of Angels Nursing Home, Joliet
2018-2021	Ministry of Presence: Our Lady of Angels Nursing Home, Joliet

<i>Interment:</i>	Section 8, Lot 364, Grave 9, Resurrection Cemetery
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	Her parents, Charles Schneider and Marie (Reidelbach) Schneider, and her stepmother, Sophie; brothers, Richard and James; half-brothers: John, David, Paul, her sister, Adrienne; her cousin, Sr. Karen Kauderer, OSF.
<i>Survived by:</i>	Her half-brothers, Joseph, Charles Michael and Francis; her half-sisters, Mary Lysle and Roseanne Hanson; niece, Sister Theresa Schneider, OSF; many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Rest in Peace, Sister Elaine R.!