



Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

Sister Elaine Murphy was born in Chicago, Illinois, to George and Margaret (Bohlman) Murphy on April 3, 1939. The family lived in the Englewood area of Chicago and were members of Sacred Heart Parish. Elaine, together with her brothers William and Dennis, and her sister Judy, attended Sacred Heart Grade School and High School where Elaine became attracted to the Joliet Franciscan Sisters who staffed the parish schools. After graduating from high school, Elaine followed her call to religious life and joined the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate in Joliet, on September 8, 1957. When she became a novice on August 13, 1958, Elaine received the name of Sister Mary Kieran. She professed her first vows on August 12, 1960, and her final vows on August 13, 1965. In 1968, following the renewal of Vatican Council II, she resumed the use of her Baptismal name and became known as Sister Elaine Murphy.

Elaine began her college education at the College of St. Francis (now University of St. Francis), and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Biology. Following in the footsteps of the Franciscan Sisters who taught her, Elaine began her ministry as an elementary school teacher at St. Pascal's in Chicago. She also taught at St. Raymond's in Joliet and at St. Boniface and Our Lady of Guadalupe in Chicago. In 1967, four years after the Congregation opened its first mission in Brazil, Elaine's ministry took a turn in a new direction. Elaine accepted an invitation to become a missionary, and she joined the Joliet Franciscan Sisters serving in Central Brazil. For the next nine years, she served in many capacities: as the Assistant Director of Formation for young Brazilian women seeking to enter religious life; as a catechist in Goiânia; as a parish minister in the capital city, Brasília; and as Vice-Principal of San Damiano School and as a parish minister in Goiânia. After returning to Joliet, Elaine reflected on her experience in Brazil: "Injustice is a very real part of everyday existence...there is a very urgent need for the promotion of human rights in Brazil."

Elaine returned to the United States in 1976 and began graduate studies at Aquinas Institute of Theology in Dubuque, Iowa, where she earned her Master of Theology Degree. Her ministry then became one of

Alleluia!



Sister Elaine Murphy, OSF

service to her Franciscan Sisters, serving six years as an Area Coordinator and four years as Congregation President. She then served as the President of St. Francis Academy. Elaine also ministered as a pastoral associate at St. Joseph Parish in DeWitt, Iowa, and SS Phillip and James Parish in nearby Grand Mound, Iowa, before returning to Joliet. She served as the Director of Admissions at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home for thirteen years and as a volunteer for three years. In 2011 when her health began to fail, Elaine took up permanent residence at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home and spent her remaining years there in a ministry of prayer and presence to her Sisters and the other residents.

When reflecting on her life as a Joliet Franciscan, Elaine stated: "Through the years my various experiences of ministry have been challenging and life-giving. I cherish the memories of past ministries and experiences and of many rewarding and fulfilling years, blessed with growth, learning and warm relationships."

After receiving a special visit from her nephew, Sam, on Friday, March 19, the Feast of St. Joseph (patron of a happy death), Sister Elaine died peacefully in the early hours of March 20, 2021. Elaine, we thank you for your fidelity to the call you first heard as a young student at Sacred Heart, Englewood, and for your example of joyful service to God's people.

As we celebrate the life and legacy of our Sister Elaine Murphy, let us give thanks to God for the gift of her presence in our lives and for the life she lived among us as our sister. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sister Elaine Murphy, OSF

April 3, 1939 — March 20, 2021

<i>Born:</i>	April 3, 1939
<i>Parents:</i>	George G. Murphy and Margaret Bohlman
<i>Postulancy:</i>	September 8, 1957
<i>Novitiate:</i>	August 13, 1958
<i>First Profession:</i>	August 12, 1960
<i>Final Profession:</i>	August 13, 1965
<i>Entered New Life:</i>	March 20, 2021

Ministry History

1960—1961	Student: College of St. Francis, Joliet, Illinois
1961—1963	Teacher: Grade 5, St. Pascal, Chicago, Illinois
1963—1965	Teacher: Grades 6, St. Raymond, Joliet, Illinois
1965—1966	Teacher: Grade 7, St. Boniface, Chicago, Illinois
1966—1967	Teacher: Grade 7, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chicago Illinois
1967—1970	Asst. to Formation Director, Parish Ministry: Goiania, Goias, Brazil
1970—1975	Parish Ministry, Catechist: Brazilia, Brazil
1975—1976	Parish Ministry, Vice-Principal, San Damiano: Goiania, Goias, Brazil
1976—1978	Student: Aquinas Institute of Theology, Dubuque, Iowa
1978—1984	Area Coordinator: Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois
1984—1988	President of Congregation, Joliet, Illinois
1988—1990	President of St. Francis Academy: Joliet, Illinois
1990—1991	Sabbatical: Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois and Notre Dame University
1991—1995	Pastoral Associate/Parish Ministry: St. Joseph, DeWitt, Iowa & SS Philip & James, Grand Mound, Iowa
1995—2008	Director of Admissions: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, Illinois
2008—2011	Volunteer: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, Illinois
2011—2021	Community Service/Prayer Ministry: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, Illinois

<i>Burial:</i>	Thursday, March 25, 2021, Procession from Our Lady of Angels Prayer: Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, Illinois.
<i>Interment:</i>	Plot 344, Grave 10
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	Her parents: George G. Murphy and Margaret Bohlman and her brother: William.
<i>Survived by:</i>	Brother: Dennis (Diane) Murphy and Sister: Judy Tocci and nephews and nieces: Laurie Murphy, Michael Murphy, Steven Murphy, Nyro Murphy and Sam Tocci.

Rest in Peace, Sister Elaine!