



St. Anne Province Center
Melbourne, Kentucky
September 26, 2020

SISTER ELIZABETH KELEMEN
was called into eternal life.

Born August 18, 1927 in Cumberland, Kentucky, Sr. Elizabeth Kelemen entered eternal life on September 24, 2020 at Holy Family Home. She was ninety-three years old and a professed member of the Congregation of Divine Providence for seventy-four years.

Elizabeth was the ninth of ten children born to Andrew and Anna Kelemen. She is preceded in death by her brothers Andrew, John, Anthony, Joe, Dennis, and Louis and her sisters Anna and Sr. Teresa Anne, CDP. She is survived by her brother Elmer and many nieces and nephews.

Because there was no Catholic school in Cumberland at the time, Sr. Elizabeth began her formal education at the Cumberland Grade School. However, she became acquainted with the Sisters of Divine Providence when they came to Cumberland to teach religion in the summer. Her contact with the sisters continued when she was a boarder for three years at St. Camillus Academy, Corbin, KY. Sr. Elizabeth was inspired by their teaching and prayerful attitude. From the time she first met the sisters, she felt called by God to be a teaching sister and, with the encouragement of Sr. Mary Dempsey, CDP, she entered St. Anne Convent on August 29, 1943. She made her first profession of vows on August 29, 1946 and final vows on August 29, 1951.

In her reflection for her Golden Jubilee, Sr. Elizabeth stated that it was in the classroom that she experienced her greatest success and joy. Sister prepared for this wonderful ministry by obtaining her A.B. degree from Villa Madonna College (now Thomas More University) and her M.Ed. from Xavier University.

Sr. Elizabeth began her long career as an elementary teacher in four schools in Kentucky: St. Vincent De Paul School in Newport from 1946 to 1948, St. Thomas School in Fort Thomas from 1948 to 1962, Christ the King School in Lexington from 1962 to 1967, and Immaculate Conception School in Newport for the first semester in 1967. Sister completed the school year at St. Matthias School in Lanham, Maryland and then moved on to St. Louis School in Clarksville, Maryland where she taught until 1976. She then taught for one year at Our Lady of Sorrows School in Takoma Park, Maryland. Sr. Elizabeth's final assignment in formal education was at St. John School in Dry Ridge, Ohio from 1977 to 2001. Sister remained at St. John and served in the school's development ministry until her retirement to Holy Family Home, Melbourne in 2008.

Sr. Elizabeth's demands for high academic achievement, moral integrity, and discipline made her a strong, outstanding teacher and earned her the respect, loyalty and love of her students. Sister created an environment for success. Her students thought they could learn anything in her class. They felt competent, capable, and confident. Her math students won many awards and several went on to study math related subjects.

That Sr. Elizabeth excelled as a teacher was attested to by the many awards that she received: NCEA Distinguished Teacher of the Year, Who's Who among American Teachers, The Golden Apple Award from the Ashland Oil Company, and the Greater Cincinnati Economic Educator of the Year. Sister was the first woman to receive the St. George Award for her work with the Boy Scouts in Baltimore, Maryland.

Sr. Elizabeth touched the lives of many, many people. All of her acquaintances benefitted from her dedication, enthusiasm, inspiration, kindness, generosity, energy, compassion, and persistence. She had a big smile for everyone she met.

In her reflections Sr. Elizabeth noted that on her profession day she gave herself completely to God. Sister was a woman of prayer and prayed specially for her students. She also prayed for women who were struggling with difficult pregnancies. Sr. Elizabeth always put her faith in God's plan, in God's Providence. Each assignment helped her to grow and to achieve the fulfillment of her call in life. She learned to accept God's will and to let God's plan unfold.

In thanksgiving for our dear Sr. Elizabeth and for her witness as a loving, joyful woman of Providence and as a woman of prayer, compassion, and loving service throughout her religious life, let us entrust her to the care of our Provident God.

United in God's gracious Providence,

Sister Barbara Patrick, CDP for
Sister Barbara Rohe, CDP, Provincial

Due to the coronavirus, there will be no wake or visitation. The Mass and burial will be private. At a later date, there will be a memorial celebration of Sr. Elizabeth's life.

Mass of Christian Burial: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 at 9:00 AM
Immaculate Conception Chapel, Melbourne

Burial in the Convent Cemetery, Melbourne, Kentucky