



St. Anne Province Center  
Melbourne, Kentucky  
March 23, 2022

**SISTER MARY KAREN BAHLMANN**  
was called into eternal life.

Born June 18, 1940 in Buffalo, New York, Sr. Mary Karen Bahlmann entered eternal life on March 23, 2022 at Holy Family Home. She was eighty-one years old and a professed member of the Congregation of Divine Providence for sixty-one years.

Catherine Ann was the oldest of three children born to Jerome and Catherine Bahlmann. She is preceded in death by her sister Judie Eten. She is survived by her brother Jerry and nieces and nephews.

When Sr. Mary Karen was a toddler, the family moved from Buffalo, New York to Fort Thomas, Kentucky where she was taught by the Sisters of Divine Providence throughout her elementary and high school years at St. Thomas School. Her religious vocation developed through the strong connections with her teachers who were also her friends. With the loving support of her family, Sr. Mary Karen wanted to try religious life to see if it was for her. With this in mind, she entered St. Anne Convent on September 8, 1958. She made her first profession of vows on November 13, 1960 and final vows on August 29, 1965.

As a born educator, Sr. Mary Karen committed her life and energies to involvement in Catholic schools. She served as teacher, principal, and assistant superintendent. Her professional preparation included an A.B. degree in elementary education from Thomas More College (now University) and an M.S. in elementary education from the University of Dayton. Later, she earned an M.S. in educational administration from the University of Dayton.

After her first profession of vows, Sr. Mary Karen was missioned as an elementary teacher. For the next several years she taught at St. Agatha Academy in Winchester, Kentucky; Our Lady of Sorrows School in Takoma Park, Maryland; St. Ann School in West Covington, Kentucky; and Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Hebron, Kentucky. From 1966 to 1972 she taught in St. Michael School in Ripley, Ohio. After one year at St. Bernard School in Dayton, Kentucky, Sr. Mary Karen's ministry as a full-time teacher ended where her formal education began. She taught at St. Thomas School in Fort Thomas from 1973 to 1977.

In the next phase of her career in Catholic education, Sr. Mary Karen served as an elementary principal in Holy Family School in Ashland, Kentucky from 1977 to 1986. Then she took a year off to complete her degree program at Dayton University. Sister returned to St. Thomas School as the principal from 1987 to 1999.

