



Sister Elizabeth Frances Scully, OSF Professed 1945

*"True education enables us to love life and opens us to the fullness of life."
Pope Francis*



Sister Elizabeth Frances Scully generously shared her love of life and learning with countless others. Formerly known as Sister Anthony Brendan, Sister Elizabeth was born in Vermont and grew up in County Cork, Ireland. She was a schoolgirl studying history when she first learned about St. Francis and his followers. Then in 1942 in Mallow, Ireland, Sister Elizabeth entered the congregation of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia. She would go on to be a devoted sister of St. Francis for nearly 80 years.

Sister Elizabeth flew from Ireland to New York on March 28, 1946, and arrived at the motherhouse in Aston the next day. From there, her ministries would call her to several states and overseas. Devoted to education, she earned an undergraduate degree in English from Villanova University, a master's degree in Latin from Reed College, and a master's degree in religious studies from Loyola Marymount College.

Sister Elizabeth's gifts spanned multiple fields. Using her education, wisdom, experience, and deep spirituality, Sister Elizabeth blessed the lives of countless students through her decades of teaching elementary school and high-school English, French, Latin, algebra, and history. Her teaching and her ministries as a retreat director, counselor, and spiritual director took her to Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, Oregon, Washington, and California, where she ministered for 21 years. In the service of peace and justice, she was a legislative staff member at the Oregon Center for Peace and Justice and later volunteered with the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia Office of Corporate Social Responsibility. Her ministry with Catholic Relief Services' Primary Health Care Program took her for three years to the Republic of Yemen.

With her warm smile, openness, and deep interest in others, Sister Elizabeth was greatly welcoming and kind. As she once wrote, she accepted everyone "where I find them." She was filled with gratitude "to God and my sisters of St. Francis for their goodness to me." At the time of her diamond jubilee, she reflected, "Thank you, God, for so many blessings. Membership in this Franciscan congregation has enabled me to grow in all areas of my life. I deeply appreciate my Franciscan sisters who, by their example, help me live our charism in my daily life." Sister Elizabeth also shared that in her quiet moments, she loved knitting, crocheting, reading, and spending time outdoors.

Sister Margaret Xavier Romans was an elementary school student when she first knew Sister Elizabeth: a "precious gem" whose presence was "peaceful and aware." Sister Virginia Spiegel and Sister Elizabeth became longtime friends. Sister Virginia recalls, "I lived with her in the West. She ministered as a spiritual director and also ministered at a parish, helping persons who were divorced to be reconciled with the church. As we shared our lives together, we encouraged one another to live out our Franciscan call. It was also my joy to spend time with Elizabeth as she lived at Assisi House. I always left her presence feeling renewed and energized to live life more fully."

All who have had the joy of knowing Sister Elizabeth Frances Scully continue to carry her memory in their hearts and the gift of her example in their lives.

*Services will be held at Assisi House on Thursday, November 18. The viewing will be held at 9:30 A.M.
Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 11 A.M., with burial in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.*

