

MARIAN RESIDENCE

1104 Toluca Avenue
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Dear Sisters, Associates, Family, and Friends,

Isn't it amazing how where "something-of-moment" occurs in our lives, what we read or what we see and hear, all tie in with what has happened!! At our Communion Service the morning Sister Elaine died, we heard the words of the Alleluia verse:

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets:
in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son.

Paraphrased it could say:

. . . in these last days, these past days, God has spoken to us
through the life of our sister, Elaine.

In the early morning on January 4, 2005, Sister Elaine, Cecelia Arbuthnot, winged her way to God accompanied we're sure by her mother, Eileen, who preceded her in death by eight weeks. Multiple sclerosis, which was diagnosed in her mid-twenties and thereafter was her constant companion, had its way with her.

Cecelia was born in O'Neill, Nebraska, on July 5, 1940 of loving parents, Eileen Duffy Arbuthnot and James Arbuthnot. She was soon joined by her sister Mary Jacqueline.

Her schooling was completed in O'Neill, where Cecelia had met and loved the Franciscan Sisters. God's call to join the Sisters, following the way of Francis, led her from O'Neill to Marycrest in Denver in 1958. She took her first vows on August 15, 1961 and final vows on August 15, 1966.

Father Bryan Ernest, pastor and officiating minister at Elaine's funeral, offered the following tribute in his homily:

I really believe that Elaine's vocation in life was more than just "a Sister of St. Francis". Her vocation in life as teacher, educator, musician, poet, religious was only part of the journey. Her desire to one with her God, to carry the cross carved for her, to embrace suffering, embrace patience and helplessness, to depend on others, was her vocation. Hers was a holy gift. As God increased she decreased in life. As she let go God provided. As she became silent she preached and taught with actions and love. Sr. Elaine continues to give us not only the example of what it means to live life as a believer of the Gospel, but to embrace the suffering and trials that come with it. She is transformed in death, she no longer is held captive, she knows and speaks all languages, runs every race, and laughs freely.

The Mass of the Resurrection was held on January 7, 2005 with burial in the Calvary Cemetery.

As a poet she wrote this Haiku:

Gratitude
God made all that's good
Now what am I called to do?
Thanks responds to all

Sister Elaine Arbuthnot, of Alliance, Nebraska

Sr. Elaine Arbuthnot, 64, died Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2005 at Marian Residence.

She was born Cecelia Ann Arbuthnot on July 5, 1940, at O'Neill, Nebraska to James and Eileen (Duffy) Arbuthnot.

She graduated from St. Mary's Academy in O'Neill in 1985. She professed her vows on Aug. 15, 1961, at Marycrest in Denver, Colo. She then received her B.A. degree in Romance Languages from Regis Univ. in Denver in 1963; her M.A. in French from Univ. of Notre Dame, Ind. in 1969; a certificate in Theology from St. Mary's Univ. at San Antonio, Tx. in 1977; and a Library Science Certificate from Community College in Denver in 1978. She worked as a high school teacher and lived at Marycrest from 1963 to 1970 when she retired due to a disability from multiple sclerosis.

Following her death Sr. Elaine donated her brain and spinal cord to research for MS at Rocky Mountain Multiple Sclerosis Center at Englewood, CO.

She is survived by her sister Mary Jacqueline Simon of Denver, aunts

Mary Duffy of Elkhorn, NE., and Helen Duffy of Mission Hill, CA., nephews Daniel Barela and Steven (Maiya McGhie) Barela, and grandchildren Nambi and Miles Barela.

Funeral services will be at 10:00am, Friday Jan. 7, at Marian Residence with Fr. Bryan Ernest officiating.

Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery.

A wake service will be at 7 pm Thursday, Jan. 6 at Marian Residence.

Memorials may be given to Colorado Multiple Sclerosis Society. Donations may be sent in care of Marian Residence, 1104 Toluca Ave. Alliance, NE 69301 Bates-Gould Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.