

Sister Joan Linenbrink entered as a postulant from Eli, Nebraska in 1951 to Marycrest and took her final vows in 1957. Starting in 1954, she taught Social Studies and English for several years in Denver, Colorado; and Scottsbluff, Alliance, and O’Neill, Nebraska. By 1960, she earned a Bachelor of Art from Regis College and then a Master of Art in Secondary Education Administration from St. Thomas College in 1967. From 1973 to 1988, she served as Principal of Marycrest High School in Denver, Colorado, then at [St. Agnes Academy](#) in Alliance, Nebraska.

In reflecting upon her service, Sister Joan has said, “I always did what I was asked to do in the community, and I was fortunate to have Provincial Ministers who listened to my concerns about saying “yes”. First of all, I had two provincial ministers who were most instrumental in my life: Sister Muriel Witte and Sister Rita Cammack, both challenged me and supported me in what they asked me to do.”

Sister Joan has served on several boards and committees over the years, contributing her wisdom and insights for the good of those served. She was elected to serve on the Sisters of St. Francis Provincial Council from 2011 to 2015. She also served as Director of Marian Residence from 2007 to 2016. Since then, Sister Joan has continued to serve Marian Residence by gardening, helping with odd jobs when needed, visiting sisters and staff. Her spirit and humor lights up every room she enters.

When asked about her hobbies, Sister Joan stated, “I did not have hobbies unless perhaps I made my ministries hobbies.” She does enjoy reading, particularly old, classic authors... cooking, especially at her brother’s ranch at brandings and holiday gathers but for herself often makes MREs, meals ready to eat... and finds fishing relaxing, time to be one with nature.

“Volunteering has always been important to me. It gives me the opportunity to do something I longed to do, but my community ministries did not allow the time or energy. When I knew I was asked about retirement from Sacred Heart Province ministry, I began looking for opportunities for volunteering.”



Joan volunteers at the [Northwest Community Action Partnership](#) in Alliance, Nebraska. It is a service that helps the needy, the disenfranchised, and is aligned to the Franciscan call and heritage.

Earth care has been a priority for Sister Joan for years. She became a member of Nebraskans for Peace in the “70’s” when it was first formed. Its basic priority is the environment. “Today, I am still a member and supporter. I am an avid supporter and worker in recycling. It is not a burden; it is a responsibility to Mother Earth.”

Joan's Magnificat

(November 2007)

My whole person teems with gratitude for the
Generous God of my understanding. God has
Looked with great kindness and gentleness on this
Alcoholic and wounded woman

From this day and days to come many will
Experience the change and my goodness. God
Has done and is doing great things for me.

Holy, holy is Her name.

God has removed the heavy burden of fear that
Companioned me for years and years.

God has shown her enduring strength in
Weakening my proud smugness

God has cast down my arrogance from its feeble
Throne and then lifted me up and holds me in
Goodness.

God has filled the emptiness of shame, guilt,
Regret with forgiveness, acceptance, peace. And
She has emptied the bloatedness of
Self-sufficiency.

She has come to walk with this woman, for She
Remembered her promise of mercy, the promise
She made to our grandparents, to our mothers
And fathers and their children.

All praise and thanksgiving to our Father,
Mother, Brother, Sister this day and every day,
One day at a time.