



Sr. Elaine Spangler, OSF

Professed 1959

"Where the needs of the world and your talents cross, there lies your vocation." - Aristotle



After a spirit-filled life of giving love, kindness, and comfort, Sr. Elaine Spangler (formerly Sr. Carlos Marie) passed away at Assisi House on Saturday, November 30, 2024. She had been a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 65 years.

Sr. Elaine grew up in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, with her parents, Jacob and Helen, and her three siblings. She graduated from Dover High School before the family moved to Philadelphia, where they were members of Our Lady of Holy Souls Parish. Sr. Elaine wrote of her early years, "Growing up in a rural area of Pennsylvania, where Catholic churches were few and far between, my life seemed to change dramatically when my family moved to Philadelphia, and I began studying nursing at St. Mary's Hospital. Sr. Margaret Alacoque, the school of nursing director, and many other Franciscan sisters helped me along the way... As I became aware of the community's health care mission, a call to religious life gradually awakened."

Sr. Elaine entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia in January 1957 and professed her first vows in August 1959. She went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Nursing from the University of Delaware. Sr. Elaine's ministries in health care took her to many hospitals in the Trenton, Wilmington, Baltimore, and Philadelphia areas, where she faithfully served as a nurse, nursing supervisor, and head nurse. Her gentle hands and compassionate heart brought comfort and healing to numerous patients, embodying Christ's call to care for the sick and vulnerable. Throughout her career, Sister Elaine was known not only for her professional excellence, but also for her humility, patience, and boundless kindness. Whether she was managing a team of caregivers or sitting at the bedside of a patient in need, her actions spoke volumes about her dedication to God's work.

Later in her career, she served as a parish nurse at Blessed Sacrament Church in Baltimore where she attended to the needs of the sick, made referrals to the hospital, and served as a social service contact. Sr. Elaine's life of service didn't end there, when she officially "retired" from nursing she went on to volunteer as a receptionist at Divine Providence in Springfield and Neumann University in Aston, Pennsylvania. She also volunteered at Catholic Social Services and many other Delaware County parishes. Upon news of her death, many former coworkers and friends commented on the Facebook post with the likes of, "great nurse," "good deeds that will never be forgotten," "faithful daughter," and "good woman."

Reflecting on her life as a sister of St. Francis for her 50th Jubilee, Sr. Elaine wrote, "As we journey together with grateful hearts, we rejoice in God's generosity and the awareness that all is gift. I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude for being a member of our wonderful congregation and for the gracious hospitality I have experienced." Sr. Catherine Ginther, who was in Sr. Elaine's set, said, "Sr. Elaine was an easy-going and very congenial person." Sr. Jude Seaman who lived with Sr. Elaine for 20 years, agreed and said, "She was always grateful for any extension of kindness or ordinary courtesies extended. Upon hearing of a sister's relative death, she would immediately send a sympathy card or Mass intention. She was always gracious with her time and her driving skills, to take anyone a distance as needed."

Sr. Elaine nurtured hope and love in those she served and all who knew her, using her talents to help with the needs of the world. While her absence leaves a void, we rejoice in the knowledge that she has been welcomed into eternal rest, hearing the words of her Lord, *"Well done, good and faithful servant."*



All services will be held at Assisi House on Friday, December 6, and will be livestreamed. A Christian Wake Service 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.