



Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

St. Paul Province

Mary Martin Nelson, CSJ
January 12, 1921 ~ August 28, 2018

A joyful musician, passionate educator and life-long learner who truly loved people, are just a few attributes those who knew her best use to describe Sister Mary Martin Nelson, CSJ. Born Elaine Cecilia Nelson, in St. Paul, MN on January 12, 1921, she died peacefully on August 28, 2018 at Carondelet Village in St. Paul.

Mary Martin entered the CSJ community in January, 1943. In 1954 she earned a BA in English and Education from the College of St. Catherine, and later an MED from Marquette University, in 1960. Her principalships include Good Shepherd in Golden Valley, St. Gregory's in St. Paul, St. Pius X in White Bear Lake and St. Philip's in Litchfield. She also coordinated the religious education programs in these parishes as well as an army base in Kaiserslautern, Germany and St. Patrick Church in Cedar, MN. For nearly twenty years she directed both the Carondelet Center and Frogtown Vineyard Literacy Programs. Ever the cheerleader, championing her students onward, Mary Martin offered this message to those she mentored: "Be a light in the world; share your knowledge with one another; be a nucleus of people who have the courage to be leaders in today's church."

"Because of Mary Martin, the hair salon has begun singing at 9:00 a.m. every Saturday morning. She also brought singing to the St. Anthony Park Nursing Home."

"With a joke, a quick wit, and beautiful smile, Mary Martin could pull you up from the blues."

"No matter what life dealt, Mary Martin was unflappable. She remained faithful, joyful and gracious to the end."

Mary Martin loved to travel and was always up for an adventure. She was a life-long learner who, when the opportunity presented itself, chose to venture to all parts of the world to deepen her spiritual and theological understanding. Places she visited include Iran, Japan, and several states throughout the US.

Mary Martin is preceded in death by her parents Martin and Barbara (Kopacek) Nelson; sisters Marie Rutledge, Maxine Schaal, and Jean Nelson, CSJ. She is survived by devoted nieces and nephews; many grand and great-grand nieces and nephews; countless friends; and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Consociates.

Mass of Christian Burial was held Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at 11:00 a.m., in Our Lady of the Presentation Chapel, 1884 Randolph Avenue, St. Paul, MN with Visitation at 10:00 a.m. preceding Mass. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery in Mendota Heights, MN.

Sister Mary Martin, rest in love and peace.