



Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
St. Paul Province

Elizabeth Delmore, CSJ

August 11, 1921 ~ November 15, 2018

An earnest proponent of women in the Church, a vibrant woman with a pioneering spirit, strong sense of justice, and deep love of learning are just a few attributes those who knew her best use to describe Sister Elizabeth (St. Joan) Delmore, CSJ. Blessed and proud to be born in Roseau, MN, on August 11, 1921, she died peacefully on November 15, 2018 at Carondelet Village in St. Paul.

Elizabeth joined the CSJ community in 1948. In 1943 she received a BS in Library Science from the College of St. Catherine and later a BA in English in 1951. An MA in English and Art History were awarded her from the University of Minnesota in 1966. It was during this time that Elizabeth began a 40 year career as librarian, serving many high schools including: St. Mary, Blaine, MN; Holy Angels, Minneapolis, MN; St. John Academy, Jamestown, ND; and St. James Academy, Grand Forks, ND. In 1959 Elizabeth returned to the College of St. Catherine where she served 10 years as Library Director and more than 20 years as faculty member. Two significant sabbaticals: a year shared in South Korea and Ireland, and three years in Vermont, allowed her to not only hone her library skills, but to enjoy a favorite hobby, mountain climbing. Upon retirement, Elizabeth served 7 years as chaplain in the cardiac unit of HealthEast St. Joseph's Hospital, and later at Sisters Care, a CSJ service program offering dignity and aid to the elderly. Described as an "indefatigable spirit," this great lover of books, nature, snowshoeing and life, will be missed by all who knew her.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Elizabeth Delmore Stories
(Collected and conveyed by Mary Kaye Medinger)

On a blessed Christmas Eve, over one hundred years ago, Elizabeth's parents met - at St. Joseph's Hospital! Her mother was a nurse and her father was a physician doing his residency.

They soon began to date (or "court") one another and often on Sunday afternoons they would take the streetcar to the end of the line (Randolph and Snelling) and then walk through the woods all the way to the Mississippi River. Their route took them past the newly constructed Derham Hall /College of St. Catherine and they decided then that any future daughters they might have would go to St. Catherine's - and three did!

Elizabeth graduated from St. Catherine's with a degree in library science before entering the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. She taught school and later became the director of the library at St. Catherine's. It was while serving in that role that she played an instrumental role in inviting the renowned liturgical artist Ade Bethune to donate what became the Ade Bethune Collection and Archives to St. Catherine's. Just a few years ago, Elizabeth thoroughly enjoyed an outing to a comprehensive Ade Bethune exhibit at the Catherine G. Murphy art gallery at St. Catherine's.

Elizabeth's next ministry led her to earn a certificate in pastoral ministry at St. Catherine's in order to become a chaplain for several years at St. Joseph's Hospital, where this story all began! She later worked for Sisters Care, a ministry that served the frail elderly in their homes. In her mid-80s, she was volunteering every Tuesday at Peace House, offering hospitality and a listening heart to whoever needed it. AND she walked two and a half miles every morning to daily Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary parish where she was a happy member of that praying community.

Not yet finished, what she then came to call her "new vocation" was to pray, publicly and unceasingly, for the Roman Catholic Church's institutional acceptance of the ordination of women.

Elizabeth was very adventurous and well-travelled. Interest in her family's genealogy took her to Lichtenstein and on several trips to Ireland, where she climbed to the top of the mountain called Croagh Patrick (a feat that many people half her age find challenging). On a sabbatical in 1980, she taught in South Korea, visited Nigerian friends in Africa and spent time with her niece in Germany. In 1990, she spent time at Tantur in Israel and stayed with Sister Florence Steichen in Bethlehem for six months.

On the home front, Elizabeth lived in the heart of the inner city at 812 Dayton in St. Paul for several decades, most of that time with her dear friend Sister Judith Stoughton. Elizabeth stayed there following Judith's death in 1991 until moving to a small apartment at 1440 Randolph in 1999 in her late 70s. In 2012 she moved to Carondelet Village in her early 90s and it was there that she died peacefully surrounded by family and friends.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Elizabeth is preceded in death by her parents Dr. John Leo Delmore and Mary Josephine (Mae) Frick Delmore; brothers Dr. John Delmore, Dr. Robert Delmore, James Patrick Delmore, and Dr. Charles Michael Delmore; sisters Marjorie Helen Delmore LaBonte and Mary Phyllis Delmore Bray. Elizabeth is survived by many devoted nieces & nephews, grand and great-grand nieces and nephews; countless friends; and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Consociates.

Mass of Christian Burial was Tuesday, November 27, 2018, at 11:00 AM, in Our Lady of the Presentation Chapel, 1884 Randolph Avenue, St. Paul, MN, with Visitation at 10:00 AM preceding Mass, and burial at Resurrection Cemetery in Mendota Heights, MN.

Sister Elizabeth, rest in love and peace.