Elizabeth (Roe Agnes) Schoeneberger, CSJ
June 10, 1925 ~ August 25, 2019

Elizabeth (Liz to her friends and community, Tommy to her family) was born the eighth of nine children to Bernard and Agatha (Nau) Schoeneberger on June 10, 1925 in Perham, MN and died on August 25, at St. Joseph Hospital in St. Paul. In 1944 she entered the CSJ community after one year at the College of St. Catherine. In 1955 Liz earned a degree in Sociology and Elementary Education from St. Catherine and in 1960 an MED from Marquette University. Liz taught elementary education at Blessed Sacrament, St. Columba, Cathedral, St. James and Holy Spirit in St. Paul, and St. Stephen in Minneapolis. Additionally, she taught religious education at St. Helena in Minneapolis and was principal at St. Agnes in Ghent, MN, and Basilica and South Parks in Minneapolis.

Offered by Sharon Gondek, CSJ

After her mother died unexpectedly when Liz was in sixth grade, the older girls took turns running the household. When her father died five years later, Liz and her younger sister lived with her married brothers’ families. She formed strong bonds with her nephews and nieces since she was closer in age to some of them than to her brothers. Adjusting to ever changing households was challenging. When she got to St. Catherine’s, where she roomed with Martha, the college sisters made a special effort to help her feel at home.

Liz enjoyed her years as a classroom teacher. She was attuned to the needs of individual students, those more physically or emotionally mature or immature than their classmates, those who needed a quiet space and others who needed a chance to burn off excess energy periodically during the day. She worked to make lessons interesting and accessible to all her students and she greatly missed the classroom when she retired from teaching.
Liz observed people closely and would remark that this one looked “sad around the eyes” or that the goodness just radiated from another. At the greeting of peace at mass in a country church, she turned to a middle-aged couple near her and told them that the love they had for each other was so obvious. When dealing with someone she found difficult, she would remind herself that God loved her and that person equally.

The lessons of her childhood were deeply engrained in Liz. She said that growing up, they could have most of what they wanted but they were trained to want very little. She was never one to shop for enjoyment and when presented with a gift, her first thought was about who could use the item. She had also learned not to sit when someone else was working and, into her nineties, she came out to help with yardwork or snow removal or whatever project was being done.

In retirement, Liz volunteered in several capacities at St. Rose. She spent hours sewing projects for herself and others. She knitted and gave away hundreds of dishcloths. She enjoyed being near water and went camping and fishing. She helped Sharon with the care of her father for the years he lived with them.

In her last twenty years or so, Liz had many health problems including both colon and breast cancers. She endured many surgeries and treatments. She valued daily mass, and office. Her bible is well worn and she always requested a bible when she was in the hospital. She said that she could handle pain and discomfort as long as she was able to pray. Having outlived all of her siblings and all the members of her CSJ reception, she was more than ready to move beyond this life.

Liz is preceded in death by her parents; sisters Rose (CSJ), Mary Ann, Martha and Agnes; brothers Al, Martin, Paul and Vincent. She is survived by many nieces and nephews; grand-nieces and grandnephews; the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Consociates. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Tuesday, September 3, 2019, 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 Liz, rest in love and peace.