

Sister Marie Elena McCormack SSND - 75 Year Jubilee!



Marie Elena McCormack was the second of two daughters to Irish parents Ellen O'Brien and William Francis. "My history begins on January 4, 1924 in Roxbury, Massachusetts, when I became a member of the McCormack family," begins Sister Marie Elena's autobiography. She and her sister, Mary, were taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame at Mission Grammar School and High School in Roxbury. "It was they, who by their example, inspired me with the desire to become a nun," wrote Marie Elena.

Both Marie Elena and her sister entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame; Mary on July 8, 1939 and Marie Elena on August 28, 1941 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Roxbury. "My letter of affiliation was accepted and on August 28, 1941, I received the bonnet together with three other girls, in the Sister's chapel. We started out for Baltimore immediately after the ceremony and arrived at the Motherhouse on August 29, 1941."

Sister Marie Elena professed her first vows on July 31, 1944 in Baltimore. For nearly 50 years, Sister Marie Elena served as a teacher, professor and principal. Her first ministry was at St. Anselm in Brooklyn, N.Y. where she taught for 15 years. She then ministered at Archbishop Walsh High School in Irvington, N.J. and St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Dover, N.H. She then went on to teach at the Academy of the Holy Angels in Demarest, N.J. and as a professor at Notre Dame of Maryland University. From August 1982 - 1991 she served as principal at St. Joseph on 87th Street in New York. She then volunteered at the motherhouse in Wilton, Connecticut for many years and took on the volunteer position of teaching English as a second language at the SSND sponsored ministry, Caroline House in Bridgeport, Connecticut. She also served as assistant to the Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation office at the provincialate in Wilton.



Sister Marie Elena received a Bachelor of Science in Education from St. John's University in 1956; a Master of Arts in English at Seton Hall University in 1961 and in 1973 a Master of Science in Education-Technology from Boston University.

Sister Marie Elena wrote on the day of her holy Reception, "Thus, its long last, I will be firstly a religious – for the love of God, and secondly, a school teacher – to teach others to love Him." Sister Marie Elena currently ministers in Prayer and Presence in Wilton and enjoys conversing with students from many years past.