Sister Elaine Polcari writes in her autobiography, “Arriving in the wee hours of the morn, on October 5, 1939 I started off the Polcari family.” Elaine was born in Boston, one of three siblings to parents Tina and Carmen Polcari, both natives of Massachusetts. When the family moved to Medford, Massachusetts, Elaine was enrolled in parochial school for the first time. “I never had the opportunity to go to a parochial school because of the great distance, but now close by was Immaculate Conception Grammar School under the direction of SSND.”

At Girls Catholic High, Elaine made the decision to become a nun. She entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame in 1957 in Baltimore, Maryland. Sister Elaine professed first vows in July 1959. For the first twelve years, Sister Elaine ministered as a teacher in Catholic schools in N.Y. and Connecticut. In 1986 she became Campus Minister first at Regis College in Weston, Mass. and then at Merrimack College. In 1999, she accepted the position of director of Community Programs there, where she ministered for five years. From 2008 – 2018, Sister Elaine taught ESOL in the Malden Public Schools.

Sister Elaine earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education from Notre Dame of Maryland University in 1966 and a Master of Arts in Education from Fairfield University in 1976.

Sister Elaine is pictured on the left next to Sister Jubilarian Fran Butler.