

Sister Cecilia Linenbrink

December 3, 1924 - November 9, 2017

Cecilia (Clara Elizabeth) was born on December 3, 1924, in Callaway, Nebraska, to Henry and Margaret Linenbrink. She is the second oldest in a family of 13 children.

A Teilhard de Chardin (S.J) devotee, and one who evolved in love, Cecilia was born in the farmland of Nebraska and at an early age experienced the arduous life of the farmer living in the dust bowl era. Her family knew the hardships of farm life without the benefit of sister rain to water the crops (which eventually led to the loss of the family farm) but were intricately connected in love, and to a faith that would sustain in times of drought and flood, sunshine and darkness, health and diminishment. Sr. Cecilia herself came to know both the blessings and challenges of life: the blessing of a communal life, an educated life, a life full of love, meaning and purpose.

A sponge for learning, she completed her high school days in Alliance, Nebraska, then entered the Sisters of St. Francis and moved to Denver, Colorado. The years since then were laced with a love for the Theology of Teilhard de Chardin, a deep spiritual life, and a life of ministry for those who are marginalized – the poor, the imprisoned, the uneducated, the homeless. This she did from the halls of St. Elizabeth's School and Regis University in Denver, Colorado, to St. Francis Mission on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota, to Father Woody's Haven of Hope and the Denver Jail in Denver, Colorado.

The passion in her life found form in The Learning Source in Denver, which she founded in the mid-1960s, where she served as the director for 27 years, then on the board for many years. Over the years, Cecilia served in many different leadership roles in her religious community, including Provincial Minister (1991-1995). Sr. Cecilia received her undergraduate education at Loretto Heights and Regis University (Denver) and did graduate work at St. Louis University and Colorado State University where she received her doctorate in philosophy.

Sr. Cecilia loved her birth family and often spent time retreating at the family ranch where she enjoyed the people and the quiet of this place.

Sr. Cecilia Linenbrink, osf, entered her eternal reward on Thursday, November 9, 2017. At 92 years young, Sr. Cecilia celebrated 73 years as a Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity of Sacred Heart Province in Denver, Colorado. Sr. Cecilia's farewell celebration included a Wake on Tuesday, November 14, 2017, 7:00 at St. Dominic's Church and the Mass of the Resurrection was on Wednesday, November 15, 2017, also at St. Dominic's Church, 29th and Federal, Denver, Colorado. Sr. Cecilia was cremated and her ashes were interred at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Wheat Ridge, Colorado.