

Sister Regina Boyle

December 29, 1929 – November 6, 2020

Sister Regina Boyle was born December 29, 1929, to Charles and Alice Kathryn (Barrett) Boyle at O'Neill, Nebraska. On January 1, 1929, she was baptized at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in O'Neill, Nebraska, and was given the name Catherine. September 22, 1940 was the day of her confirmation in this same church. She grew up on a farm close to O'Neill. Sister Regina was the oldest of twelve siblings--all girls. After two years of teacher training in high school, she passed state board exams and received a certificate to teach elementary and junior high for 3 years at the country school close to O'Neill. Many of her students were her sisters and cousins. Sister Regina renewed her certificate to teach for three more years in the rural school.

Sister Regina knew she wanted to be a Sister when she was in the second grade. She went to St. Mary's Academy in O'Neill for religion class, and there met the Sisters of St. Francis. On September 8, 1953, she entered the order of the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity. She received the name Sister Regina when she made Temporary Vows August 15, 1956, at the Mother House, Marycrest, in Denver, Colorado. Sister Regina made perpetual vows August 15, 1959 in Denver.

After first profession, Sister Regina earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education from Regis University in Denver, Colorado. She then taught elementary school at St. Agnes Academy in Alliance, Nebraska; St. Francis Mission in South Dakota; and Guardian Angels School in Denver, Colorado. Sister Regina was a student while teaching high school students at Marycrest High School in Denver, Colorado from 1961-1965. Sister Regina continued to teach there from 1965-1976.

Sister Regina helped at the Novitiate House in St. Louis, Missouri, and received a Bachelor of Arts in Art/Theology at St. Louis University in Ladue, Missouri. When she returned to Denver, Colorado, she assisted at the Novitiate, Emmaus House, from 1979-1983. She taught art to those in the Novitiate in Denver.

Prior to 1962, Sister Regina went to the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, Nebraska; Loretto Heights College in Denver, Colorado; and Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California. Sister Regina earned her Bachelor of Arts in Religious Philosophy and History Education from Regis University in Denver, Colorado, in 1962.

She studied at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. She completed master's level course work and projects in fine arts and worked in many mediums. Her fine arts thesis was a contemporary altar service. She went to the studios of Marianist Brother Mel Meyer in St. Louis, Missouri. Brother Mel was responsible for much of the artwork in the newly renovated chapel at Marycrest. Sister Regina worked with him.

She worked part-time on her artwork and cared for an infant of one of the staff members at Marycrest between 1990-2000.

Sister Regina was full-time artist for the province and enjoyed being an art instructor at Marycrest Assisted Living in Denver, Colorado, from 2000-2014. She loved the spirit of the younger residents (all under 50 with disabilities) at Harmony. The other assisted living building, Serenity, was home to elderly residents. She encouraged all the residents in both buildings to find and create beauty from their own lives in their artwork.

She retired to the Marian Residence Community in Alliance, Nebraska, in 2014. Her ministry there was prayer, until her death in 2020.

October 28, 2020, Sister Regina fell and broke her left shoulder and a bone beneath the knee. She was taken to Box Butte General Hospital in Alliance, Nebraska. The doctor was unable to operate to repair the bones in her arm and leg because of her fragile health. Visitors were limited due to the corona virus pandemic. Sister Regina returned to Marian Residence on November 2. At Marian Residence she was placed on "comfort care." Sisters and staff stayed with her in these last days. Sister Regina died November 6, 2020. Marian Residence was on lockdown so only staff and Fr. Tim Stoner were allowed into Marian Residence. Because of COVID-19 restrictions the Sisters from Denver, family and friends were not able to attend the wake on November 12 nor the funeral mass on November 13. Sister Regina's Celebration of Life Mass was celebrated virtually with non-resident Sisters, family and friends who joined the Marian Residence Sisters, staff, and Fr. Tim Stoner. Her ashes were transferred to Biglin Mortuary to be buried in the Boyle family plot in Calvary Cemetery, O'Neill Nebraska. A graveside Memorial Service is planned for the summer of 2021.