

Dominican Sister of Peace Eleanor Unrein



Dominican Sister of Peace Eleanor Unrein, of Great Bend, KS, 91, died at the Great Bend Infirmary at the Dominican Sisters of Peace Motherhouse on August 25, 2019. She was born in 1928, made her First Profession in 1945, and served God's people for nearly 75 years as a Dominican Sister of Peace.

Sr. Eleanor earned her RN and a certificate in Psychiatric Nursing from St. Rose Hospital in 1951. She completed postgraduate courses in Obstetric Nursing at the same facility in 1954, while serving as a nursing supervisor in Kansas City and Garden City Hospitals. Later in her career, she also became certified as a Chaplain, better to serve both the bodies and the spirits of her patients.

Sr. Eleanor was dedicated in her ministry to the sick in Kansas and Colorado, serving as a nurse, a nursing instructor, a nursing supervisor and a pastoral care counselor. She especially loved caring for babies in her obstetric ministry.

Retirement for Sr. Eleanor did not mean slowing down. When she returned to the Great Bend Motherhouse at the age of 77, she stayed busy. She was an active member of the Pilgrim Servants Study Group, an archival assistant, and an enthusiastic community volunteer. She also enjoyed celebrating with her Sisters and attending reunions of her large extended family. Even in retirement, she continued her ministry of care by witnessing the peaceful deaths of some of the Great Bend Sisters.

In her preaching at Sr. Eleanor's Vigil Service, Sr. Renee Dreiling, OP, said "Long before we did our study on racism, Sister Eleanor was always inclusive. Her ministry included Caucasians, Hispanics, Vietnamese, Laotians, as well as Catholics, Protestants, Mormons and Buddhist patients. She treated them all with love and respect."

Sr. Eleanor was preceded in death by her parents, four brothers, and three sisters. She is survived by a brother, Tim Unrein, and a sister, Sister Charlotte Unrein, and her community at the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

A Vigil of Remembrance and the Mass of Christian Burial were held on August 27 and 28, respectively, at the Dominican Sisters of Peace Motherhouse in Great Bend, KS. Sr. Eleanor was interred at the Sisters' Resurrection Cemetery.

Memorial gifts in Sr. Eleanor's memory may be submitted securely online or sent to the Dominican Sisters of Peace, Office of Mission Advancement, 2320 Airport Dr, Columbus, OH 43219.