

## FUNERAL REFLECTION FOR SISTER ANN INFANGER 1933 - 2024



Sister Ann Infanger died peacefully on May 20<sup>th</sup> at the age of 91 at Caritas Christi in her 68<sup>th</sup> year of religious life.

Sister Ann was born in Maplewood, New Jersey, on December 20, 1933, the third and youngest child of Adolph and Louise Stuern Infanger. Her brother Frank is deceased. Ann is survived by her sister and brother-in-law, Catherine and Fred Creham, who live in Sarasota, Florida. There are many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. Our celebrant, Father Peter, is one of many relatives here today from all over the country.

Sister Ann attended public grade and high schools. She had two friends who were Catholic and “helped her continue with the Catholic influence.” She attended catechism class. One time a woman spoke to the girls and said: “It’s good to go to a Catholic College.”

Sister Ann stated, “So I looked for Catholic colleges that had dietetics... I visited Seton Hill College with my parents around 1950. The Sisters were so friendly and it was a nice place; I decided to come here for college and that’s how I met our community of Sisters of Charity.”

Sister Ann decided to try biology her sophomore year. Sister Florence Marie Scott was her teacher. Sister Ann found her to be an extremely gifted teacher, very vivacious, and intelligent, creative and warm. “I love biology because of her and... changed to a biology major because of her.”

When Ann went home for Easter her senior year at Seton Hill, her parents asked her what she planned to do in the summer. Ann had been praying in chapel five minutes every day and she decided it would be so exciting to devote her life to learning God. She told her parents, “I’ve been thinking of becoming a sister.”

Her Dad said, “You just got this new idea. Why don’t you give it a year to make sure it is not just the influence of the Sisters.” That’s why Ann went off to the School of Nursing at Yale University. When she came home, she entered the Sisters of Charity, on September 8, 1956.

After finishing the novitiate, Sister Ann earned a doctorate in Genetics at Cornell University in 1963. Then she received a National Science Foundation Fellowship to attend the University of Regina in Saskatchewan, Canada, where she worked with Dr. Helmut Bertrand studying the mutations of mitochondrial DNA in *Neurospora*. Their work is recorded in *Current Genetics*, 1986. In teaching, Sister Ann’s biology students performed experiments in genetics in different

species. Sister Ann was a very good biology teacher. Many of our Sisters had Sister Ann as a teacher and co-worker. Many students she taught over the years are quite faithful to her. Some have been able to visit with us over these two days.

President of Seton Hill University, Dr. Mary Finger, included in her letter to the Board of Trustees: “After retiring from teaching in 2005, Sister Ann studied Pastoral Ministry, earning a certificate from Seton Hill. The coursework prepared her for the second phase of her life teaching at Seton Hill taking on first-year religion courses and senior seminar classes.”

Dr. Finger also wrote, “During her years at Seton Hill, Sister Ann took great joy in living with the Sisters of Charity from Korea who attended the university to earn their degrees. ‘It was a gift to be able to help them and learn from them,’ she once wrote.”

Sister Ann wrote the following in a community message: “In 2019, I retired. I stopped teaching altogether. I was also faculty advisor for the Respect Life Club and a volunteer helping in the Christian Laymen Thrift Store. Beginning in 1972, with Sisters Mary Francis Irvin and Estelle Hensler, I have been active in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and was the liaison to the Bishop.”

Sister Ann was always in connection with her family, as shown by their presence at her 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, celebrated at Seton Hill – 39 strong, only 6 were missing, and many alumni. The holy card for the event carried a quote from a favorite author, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin: “I still see exactly the same issue in front of me to go further, believing more and more deeply. May the Lord preserve in me a passionate zest for the World, much gentleness, and may He help me remain fully human to the last.”

*Written by Sister Mary Ann Winters*

*Presented by Sister Mary Helen O'Donnell*