



## *In Loving Memory*

### Sister Mary Brian Bole

Sister Mary Brian was born as Alma Ann Bole, at Gulfport Air Base, Mississippi in 1945. Alma Ann Bole was the second child of Thomas J. and Alma Lagarde Bole. As part of a military family, Ann lived in a number of places. By the time she was in fifth grade, she had attended six schools. Eventually there were 11 children, four boys and seven girls. The Boles decided to settle in Houston, Texas, after the family's last military assignment in England.

In Houston, for the first time, Ann experienced consecutive years in one place. Her teachers were the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND). Her SSND teachers modeled for her the kind of life she thought she would like to live. By the time Ann completed the eighth grade she was convinced that she had a religious vocation; she asked her parents to allow her to attend the aspiranture in St. Louis. The Boles were delighted that one of their children would choose life as a religious. But they determined it was not to be for Ann at this time and she continued her education at Mt. Carmel High School. Soon after graduation, with her parents' full approval, plans shaped for her entrance to the candidature and the university.

In 1964, Ann received the habit of the congregation and the name, Mary Brian. In 1965, her group was the first to profess their vows in the new Dallas province. Sister Mary Brian completed the work for her first degree at the University of Dallas (UD) then began her teaching career at Sacred Heart High School in New Orleans.

Until 1973, Sister Mary Brian taught secondary school youth with SSND communities in SSND-administered schools in Louisiana and Mississippi. This offered the distinct experience of the community working together as they shared and grew spiritually, socially, and professionally. On the return from completing the work for a Master's Degree, Mary Brian was guided by the 1970 SSND interim constitution which supported the individual member's contracting for her own assignment and forming community with others of varied ministries.

Through the rest of the century and into the next, Mary Brian engaged in educational ministries in Texas. These ranged from being the administrator of a pre-school through 12th grade program at St. Joseph School in Bryan, Texas, to teaching teachers in summer classes at UD and being its Associate Dean of Admissions.

Actual classroom teaching was her passion, predominately teaching secondary school social studies and English literature. Beyond the classroom, she worked with hundreds of students to help them achieve their dream of beginning their adult lives with a college education.

A member of the Dallas Bishop Dunne High School community describes the joyful vigor that permeated the school during Sister Mary Brian's almost two decades teaching there. "Her spirit energized the school; her no-nonsense demeanor was signature among her followers. Kindness, hard work, timeliness

*continued*

Birth  
September 13, 1945

Baptism  
October 7, 1945

Profession  
July 29, 1965

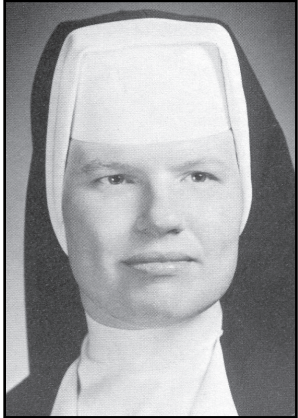
Death  
October 2, 2020

Burial  
Calvary Hill Cemetery,  
Dallas, Texas

*Precious and blessed is  
the death of the faithful  
before God... for  
they die in union with  
their dear Jesus, in the  
grace of God, in peace.*

Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger  
Foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame  
Letter 11, September 10, 1831

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and respect of each individual were hallmarks of Sister Mary Brian. A love of learning, she shared with those she taught.”

Witnessing to her passion for life-long learning are awards given her by the National Endowment for the Humanities: at Bryn Mawr, at SUNY-Stony Brook, at Boston College. Then, selected as a Fulbright Scholar, she studied the Emerging Democracies in Hungary and Poland.

She ventured into multiple cultures while summer teaching at Japan’s Kyoto Notre Dame University, touring the Holy Land, tour-guiding her students through the major countries of Europe. She personally recruited UD freshmen from most U.S. states and from Latin America. It was as a volunteer she researched, substituted as teacher, taught English to immigrants, and most recently, through Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), advocated for neglected children.

Sister Mary Brian’s earthly journey ended peacefully in the morning, on October 2, 2020. Her life was celebrated with prayer, visitation and the Holy Mass on October 10, 2020 in her parish Church of the Incarnation by Auxiliary Bishop Gregory Kelly of the Diocese of Dallas; four Cistercian priests concelebrated. The pandemic limited attendance. All nine of her surviving siblings along with numerous nieces, nephews attended. Sister Mary Brian’s parents and a brother preceded her in death. Burial was in the SSND plot in Calvary Hill Cemetery in Dallas.

*By Sister Marie Clare Powell, SSND*

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