



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Office of Communications • *The Long Island Catholic* • *Fe Fuerza Vida*

50 North Park Avenue, Rockville Centre, NY 11570

Tel: 516-678-5800, ext. 221 • Fax: 516-594-0984 • www.drvc.org

DATE: August 24, 2020

RE: Rest in Peace - Sister Elaine Roulet, CSJ

FROM: Most Reverend John O. Barres, Bishop, Diocese of Rockville Centre

Today's *The New York Times* features a movingly uplifting obituary of Sister Elaine Roulet, C.S.J. on page D7. Sr. Elaine died on August 13, 2020 at the Stella Maris Convent in Rockaway Park, Queens. She was 89. Elaine Margaret Roulet professed her first vows in 1949 and took her final vows as a Sister of Saint Joseph, Brentwood. She spent the 1950s and 1960s as a teacher in Catholic schools and then moved to caring for the poor and into ministering to the incarcerated; particularly, women. In 1979, Sr. Elaine was one of four Sisters of Saint Joseph who offered a mother coming out of prison a place to reunite with her young child. This was the beginning of Providence House, a Brooklyn-based nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide temporary housing for women who would otherwise be incarcerated. Each day, Sr. Elaine tirelessly, innovatively and courageously lived out the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy as she ministered to mothers and their children at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, a maximum-security prison for women in Westchester County. Sr. Elaine saw that many women she ministered to in the prison, had nowhere to go when released. She ministered to provide an environment centered around community, nonviolence, compassion and hospitality.

Sr. Elaine Roulet is one example of too many to count of prophetic religious women whose deep intimacy with Jesus Christ propelled and built the mission of the Catholic Church on Long Island and the State of New York.

May her soul rest in peace.