



Sister Anne Eugene Metcalf

September 23, 1937 ~ July 9, 2023

Mertice Anne Metcalf was born at White Memorial Hospital in Huntington Park, California – the only child of Carl Wright Metcalf and Elva Isabelle Reed of Arkansas. Born shortly after her parents moved from Chicago to Los Angeles, she was named for her mother's sister, Mertice, who was instrumental in her parents' move to California.

She spoke of herself as an outgoing, precocious child. Her mother enrolled her in the Meglin Kiddies Dance School. However, her movie career was short lived when her permit expired, at age four.

Her cousin, Eugene, came to live with the family, and they formed an immediate bond. Many changes were on the way in her life. Around the time Mertice was five years old, her parents divorced. She remained with her aunt, who married Master Sgt. Samuel P. Freeman (Pappy), who had three children. Her new cousins became an integral part of her life. They were more like brothers and sisters than simply cousins. Ted and Tobie enrolled in the local public school. Ted would teach her everything he learned that day in 2nd grade. Imagine what she was like when she entered 1st grade.

By 1943 all the children attended the Catholic school. In the second grade, while not baptized, she knew everything her classmates knew, and stood in the line for First Confession. Her teacher had to pull her out of line and explain she was not Catholic. Mertrice was devastated, how was she supposed to know she wasn't Catholic, when she knew everything her classmates knew! Eventually in 1946 she was baptized, received the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Holy Communion.

The family moved to Riverside, and in the 4th grade her mother found it necessary to send her to boarding school. St. Mary's Academy had closed the grammar school, so she was sent to Villa Cabrini Academy in Burbank. Although she skipped a grade at that time, Mertice did not like boarding school and missed her cousins

.At the end of her freshman year she enrolled at St. Mary's Academy , graduating in 1954 at the age of sixteen.

For one year her mother insisted she attend college, so she enrolled at Mount St. Mary's College and then entered religious life, on September 15, 1955. She received the habit on March 19, 1956 and was given the religious name Sister Anne Eugene. First vows were pronounced on March 19, 1958. This was the first group to enter the Juniorate after first vows – half of the group of 51 stayed to study. The other half were missioned to teach. Sister wrote, "The Juniorate proved to be more challenging for most of us than the novitiate." She remained to study, completing a chemistry major.

Her years of teaching began in January 1960. She had no practice teaching, but received lots of help from the sisters at St. Maria Goretti. She loved almost every minute of teaching. Sister taught at four elementary schools in four and a half years in Southern California, and then spent three years in two high schools in Los Angeles and Fresno. "I was changed so often I began to wonder if there was a problem. A wise superior told me not to worry because I was being sent to open a brand new high school (Queen of the Valley Academy) and they wouldn't be sending me if there was a problem."

For eleven years Sister Anne Eugene was assigned to St. Mary's Academy. There she taught chemistry and math, served as a counselor and a class advisor, and introduced a freshman physical science class. She taught every freshman who came to St. Mary's from 1968 – 1978. Her memory for names was remarkable. It was at this time she completed course work for a second master's degree in education and successfully tested for the Administrative Credential.

Moving to Carondelet High School in Concord, she found an administrative team already in place. They worked well together and shared classes and activities with De La Salle High School. A Parent Involvement Program and Development Office were begun. It was around this time her cousins began to call her "Angene".

The eight years flew by, and Sister was next assigned to Santa Clara High School in Oxnard. This co-ed school had a strong academic program and active sports program. Many family names were familiar to her because she had a previously taught at the Santa Clara Elementary School years earlier.

At Villanova Preparatory in Ojai, Sister served as Assistant Headmaster for Academics, because a woman could not be Headmaster. Sister taught three classes and was involved with the Academic Program. An International Student Population program and a strong ESL program provided new challenges for her.

After seven years at Villanova she moved to Los Angeles and became Assistant Principal for Mission at St. Joseph High School in Lakewood, and taught chemistry. After two years in Lakewood, Sister returned to Carondelet High School in Concord as Director of Curriculum, taught one chemistry class and was responsible for curriculum development and teacher supervision/evaluation.

For all her years in ministry, Anne Eugene was an educator serving as teacher and administrator in high schools throughout the Province. She had a great love for education and enjoyed high school students. She had the ability to move to each new school and begin every semester with renewed energy and high expectations.

Around 2010 Sister experienced back problems that required surgery. As a result she began a new phase in her ministry as a substitute teacher and volunteer. Looking back over her years in community, friends have commented on the qualities they observed in Sister. She had the ability to establish life-long relationships wherever she was missioned. They saw her to be strong, courageous, committed, faithful to her prayers, generous. They found she enjoyed others, was especially interested in talking with people- even strangers. She was loyal, trustworthy, had leadership qualities, was a good organizer, and had a wonderful memory, and possessed a deep love of God.

Poor health brought her to Carondelet Center in 2023. She had a successful hip replacement and just as she was ready to come home, bleeding complications sent her back to the hospital. Following efforts to correct this she was discharged to St John of God for continued rehabilitation, where she sought to regain her health. Once again she was admitted for another serious surgery. Shortly after her return to St John of God more instability occurred and she was rushed to Kaiser Hospital, where God called her home.

In 2016 Sister Anne Eugene and the CSJ community celebrated her 60 years of faithful service to the people of God. Now may the Light of God surround her, and the love of God enfold her.

~ Sister Frances Baker, CSJ