

Ellen (Mishur) Zethmayr-Lolakos, longtime friend and member of the Clinton Franciscan Family, passed away on May 18, 2020, in La Grange, IL. She had a passion for music, poetry, and art, sharing her talents with many.



Ellen was born a twin on December 12, 1943, in Chicago, IL, the daughter of A.P. and Helen Mishur. She became acquainted with the Clinton Franciscans as an elementary student at St. Gerald School, Oak Lawn, IL. She entered the Sisters of St. Francis at Mount St. Clare Convent, Clinton, IA, in 1961, receiving the name Sister Miriam Rose. She earned her AA degree in Liberal Arts from Mount St. Clare College and BA degree in Education from Marycrest College, Davenport, IA. Ellen returned to secular life in 1974.

Ellen taught a wide range of subjects - math, music, art, special education - and even homeschooled her children. She was a member of several art and music associations, including the National Guild of Piano Teachers. She held a degree in piano from the American Conservatory of Music, Chicago, IL, and taught piano and voice lessons.

Feeling spiritually connected to the Clinton Franciscans, Ellen joined the Associate Partnership Program in 1999 and entered the Sojourner Relationship in 2013.

Survivors include five children, Sylvia (Rob) Shults, Noël (Brad) Zethmayr Jones, Kagen Aurencz Zethmayr, Benjamin (Michelle) Zethmayr, and Miriam (John Farmer) Zethmayr; step-daughter, Angela (Jerry) Marek; two grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; and two siblings, David (Patricia) Mishur and Mary Ann (Jan) Ryk, her twin.

She was preceded in death by her parents; siblings, Dorothy, Gerald, Anthony, and Robert; and husband, Thomas Lolakos.