



Release: Immediate
Contact: Cheryl Aughton
(412) 821-2200, x 211 phone
(412) 821-3318 fax
caughton@sosf.org

Sister M. Aelred Schroeffel to Turn 100 on October 10



Millvale, PA, September 20, 2010 – Born October 10, 1910 (10/10/10), Sister Aelred Schroeffel will turn 100 on October 10, 2010 (10/10/10). A Sister of St. Francis for 82 years, she is one of the oldest members of the Syracuse-based Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities.

Aelred will celebrate her birthday during a 12:30 p.m. party on October 10. About 75 of her family members and her sisters in community will be at Mount Alvernia, 146 Hawthorne Road, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15209 to celebrate with her.

Aelred entered the Sisters of St. Francis from Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Pittsburgh's Troy Hill neighborhood. She taught science at St. Augustine High School in Pittsburgh's Lawrenceville neighborhood, a ministry in which she continued for the next 46 years at various Pittsburgh area high schools staffed by the sisters.

After retiring from the classroom, Aelred served as assistant to the pathologist at St. Francis Hospital in New Castle, Pa. for nine years. For the next 13 years, she faithfully offered her services at the Mount Alvernia regional house (convent), as she recorded the daily annals of the congregation.

A woman of deep faith, Aelred says that God is always present in her life. "He provides for my needs. When emergencies arise, God is my support." She says she has always looked to the example and lives of the older members in the congregation to renew her enthusiasm and commitment to religious life.

To someone interested in religious life, Aelred would advise, "You'll never know unless you try it." Aelred resides at Mount Alvernia and continues to be an avid sports fan, rarely missing a Pirate or a Steeler game on television.