

# ***The Mary Elizabeth Scholarship***



Mary Elizabeth Brake was born on September 18, 1952, the first of eight children to Herb and Virginia Reese. Herb, a medical student, and Ginny, a teacher, enjoyed their first born while residing in Omaha, Nebraska. Before the family moved from Omaha to Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Denver, Colorado, Mary enjoyed the addition of two sisters, Mary Martha (Pius X graduate) and Mary Margaret.

While in Denver the family grew, with the addition of two brothers and another sister, Herb Jr. (Cathedral family), Charles, and Mary Patricia. Mary's fourth sister, Mary Ann was born in Fort Knox, Kentucky, where the family was stationed until 1963. As the eldest, Mary Elizabeth carried a lot of the responsibility in caring for her younger siblings: baby-sitting, entertaining and loving them. Mary's elementary school years constituted a change of venue approximately every eighteen months. She was schooled in eight different states. Mary always adjusted well to the changes. She was a good student, liked to read, enjoyed music and loved to play the piano. While living in Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Mary became an accomplished horseback rider. With her favorite horse Candy Date, Mary took home many ribbons and awards in dressage and jumping.

The family moved to Lincoln, Nebraska where Mary entered Blessed Sacrament Elementary School. She went on to attend Pius X High School and graduated in 1970. Mary's first year in college she studied music at Fontbonne in St. Louis, Missouri, followed by a semester as an exchange student in France. Shortly after she arrived back home from France her third brother, David (Pius X graduate), was born. Mary was now the eldest of eight children. She continued her education at the University of Nebraska Lincoln, graduating with a Bachelors of Science in Education.

Mary delighted in her two sons, Nathan (Cathedral family), and Kevin (Cathedral and Pius X graduate). Moving to Seward, Nebraska, Mary opened a preschool, called the Stone House, which is still a landmark there today. Moving back to Lincoln, Mary, with great enthusiasm, was an active member of the Cathedral parish for more than twenty years. She was very community minded and a humble servant to others. She was a dedicated elementary school teacher and later in life made a career change to real estate where she excelled in serving those in need of a home. In 1998, a surprise and blessing came to Mary with the birth of her daughter Elizabeth Bayley.

In 2008, Mary Elizabeth died suddenly in a tragic horseback riding accident in Beaver Creek, Colorado, while on a family vacation. She will always be missed by her family and friends. Mary was a woman gifted to love others. All her life she embraced and cared for children; she nurtured her family and supported her friends. The gift of God's divine love expanding through Mary gave her the ability to clearly see people's talents and abilities and support and nurture them, helping them to be the best people they could be.

As part of Mary's legacy, members of her family have established this scholarship to continue her spirit of generosity, love and emphasis on the importance of education, and the sacredness of children and family. The purpose of the Mary Elizabeth Scholarship is to provide one full year of tuition to a Cathedral School student or family who comes from a family in need. Representatives from Mary's family will review applicants in an anonymous fashion.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- ◆ A member of the recipient's family must meet with Msgr. Tucker to discuss tuition need (call Mnsgr to arrange prior to application).
- ◆ Recipient families must agree to offer a minimum of ten hours of service to Cathedral School during the school year of scholarship (call the Cathedral School office to arrange).
- ◆ K-8 students or a family with multiple children may apply. Students in grades 3-8 must maintain a C average or better in core content areas (math, science, language arts, social studies, religion) in preceding and current scholarship year.
- ◆ The child(ren) must be eligible for the Federal Government's Free & Reduced Lunch program. Families of recipients must be willing to provide tax information from the previous year if so asked by the family.
- ◆ Complete the attached application.

*Please contact the school office at 402.489.9621 with questions or assistance in completing this scholarship.*