

Sister M. Rosette Dutko, O.S.F.



Born: June 11, 1906
 Parents: Peter and Mary (Zajac) Dutko
 Entered from: St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA
 Postulancy: September 7, 1921
 Novitiate: August 12, 1922
 Profession: August 12, 1924

Died: Thursday, March 4, 1999 at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home
 at 10:20 p.m.

Ministry:

1924 - 1925 St. Stephen, Streator, IL, Grade 3
 1925 - 1930 Sacred Heart, Chicgo, IL, Grades 3-4
 1930 - 1931 St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Grade 5
 1931 - 1934 St. Stephen, Streator, IL, Grades 5-6
 1934 - 1940 St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA, Grades 6-7
 1940 - 1941 St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Grade 7
 1941 - 1947 St. Stephen, Streator, IL, Grades 6-7
 1947 - 1948 Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH, Grade 7
 1948 - 1960 St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA, Grade 8, Superior and Principal
 1960 - 1961 St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL, Grades 7-8
 1961 - 1966 St. Mary, Rock Island, IL, Grades 7-8, Superior and Principal
 1966 - 1969 St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA, Grades 6,8, Superior and Principal
 1969 - 1976 St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Grade 6
 1976 - 1981 St. Coleman, Pompano Beach, FL, Learning Center Teacher/Director
 1981 - 1991 St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA, Family Ministry/Pastoral Care
 Vine Street Apartments
 1991 - 1999 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL Monday, March 8, 1999
 2-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
 Monday, March 8, 1999 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial: Tuesday, March 9, 1999 leaving Our Lady of Angels at
 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL,
 S8-L337-G9

Survived by: her sister, Sister Doris Dutko, O.S.F. (Joliet, IL) and
 many cousins, nieces and nephews

*For those who have been faithful, O Lord,
life is not ended, but merely changed.*

Sister Rosette Dutko was born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania to Peter and Mary Zajac Dutko on June 11, 1906. Several days later she was baptized Agnes at St. Stephen's Church. She was the fourth of six children. Two of her sisters, Sister Emilia (deceased) and Sister Doris became members of the Congregation. Her sister Ann and brothers John and Joseph are deceased. Agnes recognized her family as a very important influence on her life. Agnes attended St. Stephen's grammar school and then traveled to Joliet to attend St. Francis Academy. Later, she majored in history at the College of St. Francis and earned credits from DePaul and Marquette.

At her reception into the Novitiate on August 12, 1921, Agnes received the name of Sister M. Rosette. In her scrap book of special memories, a holy card given to her by Sister (Ma) Otilia, her novice directress, quotes the words of St. Augustine, "She that prays well, lives well, and she that lives well, will die well." Sr. Rosette wrote, "I try to follow what Sr. Otilia wrote. Hope I end well - a happy death."

Her first career, teaching, began in 1925. Her ministry in education took her to four states, IL, OH, FL and her home parish in PA. She was especially fond of the sixth grade. The children loved her and felt that she communicated well with them. She herself loved the poor and tried to create this awareness in her students. In 1976, Sister Rosette joined Sister Doris in Florida where she began her second career, tutoring special students. She wrote, "I love them all! These five years were extremely happy as I shared them with my dear sister."

Due to the poor health of her two brothers, John and Joseph, Sister Rosette returned to Johnstown. There she started her third career of helping in the cafeteria at the West End Consolidated Catholic Schools. "We were a happy group and always had a great time," she remembered. She also taught CCD classes and prepared children for their First Communion.

Her fourth career began in 1987 with her ministry "to make a difference" with the sick and aged, especially her brother John. They all lived in the Vine Street apartments. She wrote, "In my daily contact, I would smile to the lonely and help those in need. They were a challenge to me, but they helped me to cope with my own old age infirmities. Adjustments were very hard. I made a habit of going to daily Mass. During the day there were prayers and novenas for those I promised to pray."

After spending almost thirty years in her home town, Sister Rosette was very happy to come to Our Lady of Angels in August of 1991. She remarked, "I thank God for all the good times. At 85 I am doing pretty well. I'm glad I'm a Franciscan from Joliet." Although her blood condition grew worse, even effecting her eye sight, she continued to have a pleasant disposition, seeing the humor in situations. Her bright eyes and winning smile warmed the hearts of many.

She treasured times spent with Sister Doris. Together they traveled to England, Ireland, Canada, Spain and to Italy, where their favorite spot was Assisi. Together they made retreats at Plano and Greensburg. Together they walked the beaches and picked blueberries. Together with nieces and nephews they enjoyed summer tours. And on her last afternoon, Sister Doris was again together with her, holding her hand, praying with her and simply being with her as she was dying. Late that evening Sister Rosette died well, just as she had lived and prayed. Sister Doris reflected, "She was a wonderful sister. Nothing was too much for her. I will miss her dearly. She never pushed me to follow her to the convent, yet her encouragement helped me to stay."

Sister Rosette, by your example you truly proclaimed "Jesus is Lord." Now that you have traveled to the heavenly Jerusalem, we ask you to pray for Sister Doris, your family, your friends and your Franciscan Sisters that our lives may praise the God whose presence you now enjoy for all eternity. Amen. Alleluia.

