

Alleluia!

Sister Mary Geraldine Rowan, OSF



Sister Mary Geraldine Rowan was born in Chicago, Illinois, on September 10, 1916, to John Nicholas and Mary Ann O'Brien Rowan. She was the oldest of five children and was preceded in death by her four siblings, John, Mary Catherine (Sister Fidelis) Robert and James. Sister Mary Geraldine is survived by her sisters-in-law Mary Rita, Viola and Elizabeth Rowan and many nieces and nephews. Mary Geraldine attended school at Sacred Heart in Englewood and it was from this parish that she entered the Prep in Joliet, Illinois. Mary Geraldine entered the postulancy in September of 1934. In 1935 she became a novice and was given the name, Sister Mary Rosilda. When permission was given to return to baptismal names, she returned to her name, Mary Geraldine, the name to which she is known by her loving family. Following her novitiate, Mary Geraldine professed her first vows in 1937 and her final vows in 1940. She graduated from St. Francis Academy and received a Bachelor's degree from the College of St. Francis as well as a certificate from the Seraphic Institute.

During her teaching career, Sister Mary Geraldine shared her gifts at schools in Illinois, Ohio, Florida and Arizona, first teaching as a full time classroom teacher, then becoming a music teacher, teaching the children songs for liturgy, special holidays and feasts. She taught every grade from kindergarten through grade eight and she seemed to enjoy them all. She shared that she often taught the teachers on the various staffs also, a great joy to her. When she felt that she could no longer teach, Sister Mary Geraldine was still helping in various ways, such as being the Xerox person, a secretary or working in some other clerical capacity. When she became a resident of Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home in 2000, she continued to give of her time and talent, accumulating certificates for more than 750 hours of volunteer service.

Even recently she did what she could for the residents by making and decorating crosses for each sister to display on her door this past Lent and coloring pictures to decorate the area outside the dining room this past Advent. She worked so hard and was determined to brighten the halls, even on days when she was not feeling up to par.

We know that family was important to Sister Geraldine. She spent Thanksgiving and Christmas at the home of one of her nephews and brought joy to all that were gathered. There were a few times before Christmas when Geri was not feeling well but told herself and others that she had to be better for Christmas because she really wanted to be with her nephew and his family. She loved being with people. We pray for all of you who will miss her gentle and kind smile as you recall all the memories you have of her. We pray too for her living classmates in community, Sisters Loretta Wagner, Marie Schramko, Mary Tikva and Martin Hornak as well as all our sisters who mourn her. May you be comforted knowing that Geri is now at home with her parents, her sister and her brothers, her classmates who have preceded her in death and all our departed sisters and associates.

Mary Geraldine, we thank you for all the students you taught, for all the ways you were a mentor to us, for kindness and goodness you shared with each of us. We pray that you may rejoice forever with the God that you served so faithfully for so many years.

Amen. Alleluia.

Sister Mary Geraldine (Rosilda) Rowan, OSF

September 10, 1916 — January 9, 2007

<i>Born:</i>	September 10, 1916, in Chicago, Illinois
<i>Parents:</i>	John N. Rowan and Mary (O'Brien) Rowan
<i>Postulancy:</i>	September 8, 1934
<i>Novitiate:</i>	August 12, 1935
<i>First Profession:</i>	August 12, 1937
<i>Final Profession:</i>	August 12, 1940
<i>Entered New Life:</i>	January 9, 2007

Ministry History

1937-1942	Teacher: Grades 1, 3, Corpus Christi, Columbus, Ohio
1942-1943	Teacher: Grade 2, St. Mary Magdalene, Columbus, Ohio
1943-1944	Teacher: Grade 2, Immaculate Conception, Columbus, Ohio
1944-1956	Teacher: Grades 1, 2, St. John the Baptist, Joliet, Illinois
1956-1959	Teacher: Grades 1, 2, St. John the Baptist, Payne, Ohio
1959-1964	Teacher: Grades 5, 6, 7, St. Peter, Mansfield, Ohio
1964-1967	Teacher: Grade 5, Immaculate Conception, Columbus, Ohio
1967-1968	Teacher: Grade 5, St. Pascal, Chicago, Illinois
1968-1970	Teacher: Grade 5, Sacred Heart, Winnetka, Illinois
1971-1974	Teacher: Grade 7, Corpus Christi, Columbus, Ohio
1974-1983	Teacher: Grades K, 6, 7, 8, St. Coleman, Pompano Beach, Florida
1984-1988	Teacher: Grades K, 1, St. Matthew, Phoenix, Arizona
1988-1994	Teacher: Grades K—5, Music; Xerox Operator, St. Matthew, Phoenix
1994-1995	Teacher: Grades 1—4, Music, Dyslexia Class; Xerox Operator, St. Matthew, Phoenix
1994-1996	Teacher: Part-time, Music; Secretarial work, St. Matthew, Phoenix
1996-2000	Teacher: Music, Clerical work, St. Matthew, Phoenix
2000-2001	Community Service: Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, Illinois
2001-2007	Retired

<i>Wake:</i>	Friday, January 12, 2007, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Wake Service:</i>	Friday, January 12, 2007, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Mass of Christian Burial</i>	Friday, January 12, 2007, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Burial</i>	Saturday, January 13, 2007, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 8:30 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
<i>Interment:</i>	S8-L337-G1 Resurrection Cemetery
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	Her parents, John and Mary (O'Brien) Rowan; her Joliet Franciscan sister, Sister Mary Catherine (Fidelis); and her brothers, John, Robert and James
<i>Survived by:</i>	Her sisters-in-law, Mary Rita, Viola, and Elizabeth, nieces, nephews cousins and her Joliet Franciscan sisters.

Rest in Peace, Sister Mary Geraldine