



Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

Sr. Rose did not want an Alleluia Letter to be read at her wake. Following is the Reflection that was prepared for her Mass of Christian Burial.

Reflection

Sr. Rose Spatny, OSF

Written by: Sr. Maria Pesavento — June 20, 2017

We come together this evening to bid farewell to and to celebrate the life of our Sr. Rose Spatny. Sr. Rose planned every part of her farewell liturgy, from the theme, to the readings, to the songs, to the musicians, to even naming some of the participants. And, she asked that we remember her as "joyfully returning to the Lord." So, it is with those words in mind that I share these thoughts with you.

Rose had a great devotion to the Good Shepherd who loved all his sheep. This theme of love permeates the readings that she chose for tonight.

In the first reading from Song of Songs, we hear the call to come because now is the time and we are beloved. This is the call that Rose heard and answered 81 years ago and she never looked back. On the occasion of her 75th Jubilee, she wrote that she was "eternally grateful for her vocation." And that is how she lived her life - in love and gratitude.

The letter from John reminds us that if we "love one another, God lives in us" and God's love is "perfected in us." All that Rose did was motivated by her desire to bring God's love to all she met and served. Whether as a teacher, or a cottage supervisor at Guardian Angel Home, or a medical social worker, she poured her whole heart into her ministry. She spent 20 years as a teacher and often spoke of her students keeping in touch with her and she with them. Don and Judy Kotrba and Sr. Lois Prebil held a special place in her heart.

Alleluia!



Sister Rose Spatny, OSF

Can you imagine "little" Rose as a cottage supervisor for teenage boys at GAH? "Small but mighty" is probably how they described her. She fondly recalled hearing from them through the years. One of these boys, Sal Dileo, was so thankful for his time with our Sisters at GAH that he built a retreat house in Minnesota in their honor. Rose was so proud of this.

Lastly, Rose spent 25 years as a social worker with the Columbus-Cabrini Health Care System. She stated that her ministry there allowed her "to provide supportive services" to patients and their families as they tried to cope with "the problems brought on by physical disability or illness." She especially loved the fact that she was mostly serving low income people. Rose wrote that her ministry allowed her "the experience of serving others" and that she, in turn, "respected the worth and dignity" of each person she served.

Yes, God's love was definitely perfected in Rose.

Finally, the reading from John's Gospel also reminds us of God's love for us and that we are to love one another because of this. The passage ends with Jesus' words: "You did not choose me, but I chose you." I believe that Rose kept these words close to her heart each day of her life. She treasured her vocation as a Joliet Franciscan. She once wrote that living a Franciscan religious life meant "living the Gospel life with St. Francis and St. Clare as our model." She went on to say that "Francis was intensely in love with the Lord and every moment of his life was living with Christ" and that "Clare was a great model for contemplation." She viewed her ministry in this vein also and stated that she was "an

Ecclesial Woman with a Franciscan Charism, who responds to the needs of the time."

Even in "retirement" at OLA, Rose continued to minister to others. As long as she was able she committed herself to cutting and sorting stamps in order to raise money for the missions. Many of us in this Chapel have called her our "Prayer Sister" and we know how special that ministry was to her. We are fortunate to know that she will not forget us in the future.

Rose loved life. You could see it in her dancing eyes. She loved to laugh, to do Word Search puzzles and to play bingo. And, I understand she was very serious about her bingo and won often. And, of course, Rose loved chocolate and often shared her stash with others.

There are many symbolic meanings for the name Rose. Some of them are love, honor, faith, beauty, balance, passion, devotion and wisdom. We do not know why Rose's parents chose this name for her. But her life tells us that it was a wise choice.

It was several years ago that Rose asked me to give the reflection at her funeral. Several times after that when we met she would remind me and I would assure her that I did remember my promise. The last several months though, each time she would see me, she would mention it. One day she told me that she wanted to celebrate her Jubilee in heaven. I knew then why she kept reminding me of my promise. When I heard of her death, I knew how special she was to her God that her last wish was granted.

Macrina Wiederkehr, OSB, in her book, *Seasons of Your Heart*, writes that it is important to celebrate with our friends the good things we find in their lives and that sometimes we forget to affirm the ones we love most. So, I would like to paraphrase her prayer and offer it for all of us who called Rose sister and friend.

We sing of your warmth! Not everyone is warm, you know-but you are and your warmth has melted the cold of my heart.

We sing of your conviction! That deep belief planted firmly in your life so obvious to all who have eyes to see. It has given strength to my own conviction's hard moments.

We sing of your gentleness! A strength sometimes hidden behind firm conviction. I celebrate its presence in you. I know how hard gentleness can be but we who have a life to live must not forget its home in us.

We sing of your faith-life! We celebrate God's love for you and your living out that love.

We sing of your hope! Your willingness to go on, your waiting for the Lord to fill up what is lacking in you life.

We sing of your love! Your life spilled out; that jar of perfume that is you, poured out over Jesus-poured out over me and all who pass your way. We celebrate that love, that emptying of self, your life poured out.

Tonight, we celebrate you, Rose. Enjoy your Jubilee celebration! Rest in peace, dear friend!

**Reflection written by:
Sr. Maria Pesavento
Mass of Christian Burial
June 20, 2017**

Sister Rose Spatny, OSF

February 24, 1928— June 12, 2017

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| <i>Born:</i> | February 21, 1920 |
| <i>Parents:</i> | Joseph Malina and Johanna Kuta |
| <i>Postulancy:</i> | September 8, 1936 |
| <i>Novitiate:</i> | August 12, 1937 |
| <i>First Profession:</i> | August 12, 1939 |
| <i>Final Profession:</i> | August 12, 1943 |
| <i>Entered New Life:</i> | June 12, 2017 |

Ministry History

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| 1939-1942 | Teacher: Grades 1 and 3, St. Joseph, Joliet, Illinois |
| 1942-1956 | Teacher: Grades 4, 5, 6, 7, St. Procopius, Chicago, Illinois |
| 1956-1958 | Teacher: Grades 7, 8, Guardian Angel Home, Joliet |
| 1958-1969 | Prefect: Guardian Angel Home, Joliet |
| 1969-1976 | Social Service: Columbus Hospital, Chicago |
| 1976-1997 | Medical Social Worker: Cabrini Hospital, Chicago |
| 1997-2001 | Family Ministry: Marie Phillip's Residence, Chicago |
| 2001-2014 | Community Service: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet |
| 2014-2007 | Community Service/Prayer and Presence: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet |

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| <i>Wake:</i> | Monday, January 30, 2017, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet |
| <i>Prayer Service:</i> | Monday, January 30, 2017, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet |
| <i>Mass of Christian Burial:</i> | Monday, January 30, 2017, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet |
| <i>Burial:</i> | Tuesday, January 30, 2017, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, Illinois |
| <i>Interment:</i> | Section 8, Lot 343, Grave ?, Resurrection Cemetery |
| <i>Predeceased by:</i> | By her parents, Joseph Malina and Johanna Kuta |
| <i>Survived by:</i> | Nieces and nephews |

Rest in Peace, Sister Rose!