

SISTER M. ROSE AGNES ZOLLNER O.S.F. (Anna) 642

Born: September 17, 1904
Parents: John and Karoline (Schumich) Zollner
Postulancy: September 26, 1924
Novitiate: August 12, 1925
First Profession: August 12, 1927
Final Profession: August 12, 1930
Died: Sunday evening, September 18, 1988 at
Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home



Ministry:

1926 - 1932 St. Clement, Chicago, IL, First and Second Year Homeroom and Subjects
1932 - 1938 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, English, Spanish, Shorthand, Latin
1938 - 1942 Central Catholic High School, Toledo, OH, Religion, Spanish, History
1942 - 1944 Catholic University of America, Washington D.C., Graduate Study
1944 - 1970 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, Department of Philosophy and
Religion
1970 - 1981 Religious Education Office, Diocese of Joliet
1981 - 1986 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Retired
1986 - 1988 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Retired

Wake: Wednesday, September 21, 1988 from 2 - 7 p.m.
Prayer Service at 4:15 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Wednesday, September 21, 1988 at 7 p.m.

Burial: Thursday, September 22, 1988 from OLA at 9 a.m. to
Resurrection Cemetery.

Survived by sisters: Frances Haban, Caroline Niklas, Agnes Parsons and
brothers: Richard and John Zollner

Lord, how long
Must I tarry yet
In this barrenness?
My soul is withered
And my heart dried up
For the lack of Thee,
O my Life, O my Love!

* * * * *

"...Yet with You I shall always be.
You have hold of my right hand.
With Your counsel You guide me,
And in the end You will receive me in glory.

Whom else have I in heaven, but You?
And on earth, what can delight me
without you?
Though my heart and my flesh waste away,
You are the strength of my heart, O God,
and my portion forever." (Ps. 73:24ff.)
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On September 17th, 1988, the Feast of the Stigmata of St. Francis and the 84th birthday of Sr. Rose Agnes, she said, "I think I was born to be a Franciscan." We agree with you dear Sister, and we feel privileged to have shared so many years in community with you. May you be experiencing that "portion" with your God forever and ever. Amen! Alleluia!

She loved our Congregation and devoted long hours and serious study to our understanding of Church and our mission. She read the documents of Vatican II diligently, struggling to help us understand how to integrate them into religious life. She was a delegate in Chapters, presented workshops on our Franciscan charism, and taught Mariology to our novices.

She was a woman devoted to our Lady. She dreamed of one day making a pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady in Washington, D.C. She wrote "I want to pray for our country, that it may assume its moral leadership for peace and justice in our world." In the year of her diamond jubilee, 1987, her dream became a reality. Through the kindness of Bishop Vonesh, she joined a pilgrimage group from Joliet who visited the shrine. On her return she was eager to share her experience with many people. No experience was for her alone, she wanted to share everything with others.

If there ever was a woman who lived fully all the days of her life, it was our Sister Rose Agnes. After her days at the College she continued her ministry in Religious Education working ten years in the Religious Education Office in Joliet. Even since 1986 when she retired to OLA she remained active, conducting days of recollection for CCD teachers, participating in a Senior Service Center program on the spiritual aspect of an enriching life for the elderly, presenting book reviews.

The concerns of the world were always her concerns. In 1985, at the age of 81, she wrote a letter to the people of Joliet calling for the need for leadership that would be concerned with peace and justice more than personal greed. Just two weeks ago our Peace and Justice committee appointed her as the official liaison with their committee and the residents of OLA.

Sr. Rose Agnes had an extraordinary gift of integrating scholarship with selfless compassion for others. She always had time for friendships and companionships. She ministered to our retired sisters at OLA, with good conversation and serious games of scrabble. They will miss her!

Sister Rose Agnes was ready to meet her God. You can hear her longing in these words she wrote in 1960.

"...like a dry weary land without water..."(Ps. 63)

"Strike, O Lord,
This rock of my heart
With the fire of Thy love.
Bid affections pour
In torrent forth
From my arid soul.

For my sojourn is long
In this desert place,
And my spirit pines
For the promised land,
And my soul's athirst
For to taste Thee, Sweet.

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

Our Sister Rose Agnes Zollner was born to life eternal on Sunday, September 18, 1988. Her death was unexpected. She spent Sunday in her room, uncomfortable with shoulder pain and a persistent rash. That evening she died quietly in her sleep. We will miss our Sister! We extend our sympathy to her family, especially her sisters Frances (sister-in-law of Sister Teresine Haban), Caroline and Agnes, and her brothers John and Richard.

Anna Zollner was born in Austria in 1904 to John and Karoline Zollner. At the age of four she came to the United States. The family settled in Columbus, Ohio at our parish, St. Mary's. In 1971 she wrote about the people who had influenced her life there at St. Mary's. She praised Sr. Julia who taught her the English language, Sr. Eulogia who challenged her to be a scholar and leader, and the pastor, Father Wehrle, who instilled in her a love for the Church.

If there are words from scripture that could capture the spirit of Sr. Rose Agnes, they might be "the zeal for Your house has consumed my soul." She was truly a zealous woman, conscious of our world, loving the Church, caught up in the spirit of Francis, devoted to Mary, and faithful to our Congregation.

We remember her as a scholar. How familiar it was to see her bent over a book, eagerly underlining important words. Although her eyesight was poor, she never stopped reading, studying, researching, learning. And always she was anxious to share her new understandings with others.

From 1944 to 1970 she ministered as teacher at the College of St. Francis. In 1978 she received the honor of Professor Emeritus in recognition of her loyal dedicated service as professor and chairperson of the religion department. She initiated the research and did the "spade work" for the establishment in 1954 of the Seraphic Institute of Theology for Sisters. This Institute later developed into a Masters Degree Program in Franciscanism. Her students remember her conscientious correction of their assignment papers, returned with more red ink words than the original words. She was deeply appreciated by a whole generation of our Sisters who called her teacher.

She expressed herself so well in writing. And she wrote pamphlets, articles, book reviews, lyrics to hymns such as Mary Immaculate, and poems. She looked on her ability to write letters as a ministry. She wrote to Popes, Presidents, editors of local newspapers, and so many others. But most of us will remember her warm personal notes that were so affirming. Just two weeks ago she wrote a note of affirmation to the Governing Board, including a few suggestions for the Congregation. We will miss her words!

