

## Sister M. Roseanne Berna, O.S.F.



Born: June 8, 1909  
 Parents: Victor and Magdalen (Tisch) Berna  
 Entered from: St. Mary Parish, Woodstock, IL  
 Postulancy: September 8, 1923  
 Novitiate: August 12, 1924  
 Profession: August 13, 1926  
 Died: Sunday, April 16, 2000 at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home,  
 Joliet, IL at 7:20 a.m.

## Ministry:

1926 - 1933 St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL, Grades 1, 2  
 1933 - 1958 Our Lady of Mercy, Granville, OH, Teacher of special students  
 Kindergarten, Grades 1, 2, 3, 4, Principal  
 1958 - 1963 St. Francis de Sales, Toledo, OH, Social Work for Catholic Charities  
 1963 - 1966 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Assistant on D2 wing  
 1966 - 1971 Transferred to cloistered Poor Clare Nuns of Perpetual Adoration,  
 Sancta Clara Monastery, Canton, OH  
 Returned to the Congregation in 1971  
 1971 - 1972 St. Mary, Des Plaines, IL, Teachers' Aid  
 1972 - 1974 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Activity Director  
 1974 - 1975 Immaculate Conception, Columbus, OH, Parish Visitor  
 1975 - 1989 St. Coleman, Pompano Beach, FL, Parish Minister, Minister to the Sick  
 1989 - 1991 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, St. Francis Reading Center, Tutor  
 1991 - 1994 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Will/Grundy Medical Clinic, Volunteer  
 1994 - 2000 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Tuesday,  
 April 18, 2000 from 2 - 7 p.m. with a prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Tuesday,  
 April 18, 2000 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial: Wednesday, April 19, 2000 leaving Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home at  
 9:00 to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL  
 Section 8, Lot 336, Grave 8

Survived by: her sisters Anna DeWitz (Elgin, IL), Rose Feldt (Woodstock, IL), and  
 Mary Johnson (Woodstock, IL) and many nieces and nephews

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

Sister Roseanne Berna was born in Elgin, Illinois on June 8, 1909 to Victor and Magdalene Tisch Berna, and was baptized Josephine at St. Joseph Church in Elgin. There were 15 children in the family: Joseph, Victor, Lena, Matthew, Marie, Henry, Aloysius, Frances, Josephine, Anna, Frank, Margaret, Rose, Mary and Tillie. Two of the children died in infancy. Their mother died shortly after the youngest was born. Their father worked to care for the children.

When Josephine was 14 years old, she came to Joliet, together with her sister Frances. They were received as postulants with the Joliet Franciscan Sisters on September 8, 1923. On August 12, 1924, Josephine was received into the novitiate and was given the new name of Sister Roseanne. Her sister Frances received the name, Sister Odilia.

Sister Roseanne began her teaching ministry at St. Francis de Sales in Chicago in 1926. In September of 1933, she was assigned to Our Lady of Mercy in Granville, Ohio where she continued to serve for 25 years. Sister Roseanne was creative in the way she approached her various tasks at Granville. In this boarding school for children of special needs, Sister Roseanne met with civic leaders and business managers to secure the best for the children there. She negotiated a day of fun at a nearby amusement park, and in doing so raised the awareness of the local leaders to the special needs of the children at Granville. The outing became an annual event. The ministry of Sister Roseanne was described as "teacher, mother and administrator." In 1958, Sister Roseanne went on to another school, meeting a different type of social need, that of the girls who lived at Marybrook, a school to serve girls who were placed there by the state because of various home situations and emotional problems.

In 1963, when Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home was in its very early years, Sister Rosanne came there to work as an assistant in serving the nursing needs of our Sisters. During that time, Sister Rosanne felt called to live a contemplative life, and requested to transfer to the Poor Clares in Canton, Ohio. After five years at Sancta Clara Monastery, enriched by the life of prayer there but with a new understanding of her call within the Joliet Franciscan Congregation, Sister Rosanne was welcomed back to the Congregation in Joliet.

Sister Roseanne helped out at various places, and in 1975 she went to St. Coleman's Parish in Pompano Beach, Florida where she spent 14 years working as a pastoral minister, visiting the homebound and those in nursing homes or in the hospital.

In 1994, Sister Rosanne returned to Our Lady of Angels where, in her retirement, she continued her life of prayer and spent time doing various forms of needlework. She continued her connections to others by faithful correspondence.

Earlier this year at the time of Epiphany, Sister Rosanne witnessed the entry into eternal life of her Sister Odilia. On the morning of Palm Sunday, as the Eucharistic celebration was just beginning, Sister Rosanne was led by her King and Spouse into God's kingdom forever.

Sister Rosanne, we thank you for your gift of being with others in a spirit of compassionate support. Continue to pray for us, your family, your Franciscan Sisters and friends, that we may see God in each event of our lives. May you rejoice in God's presence forever. Amen. Alleluia.

