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Sister Rosarita Orlosky, O.S.F.

Born: August 5, 1912

Parents: Andrew and Anna (Kluc) Orlosky

Entered from: St. Stephen Parish, Johnstown, PA

Postulancy: September 8, 1931

Novitiate: August 12, 1932

Profession: August 12, 1934



Died: Friday, January 17, 1997 at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home at approximately 9:45 a.m.

Ministry:

- 1934 - 1935 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Domestic Work
- 1935 - 1936 St. Francis Preparatory, Joliet, IL, Domestic Work
- 1936 - 1938 St. John the Baptist, Joliet, IL, Domestic Work
- 1938 - 1941 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, Domestic Work
- 1941 - 1947 St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Domestic Work
- 1947 - 1952 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Domestic Work
- 1952 - 1955 St. Francis of Assisi, Chicago, IL, Domestic Work
- 1955 - 1961 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Domestic Work
- 1961 - 1965 Holy Family, Cleveland, OH, Domestic Work
- 1965 - 1967 St. Matthew, Champaign, IL, Domestic Work
- 1967 - 1992 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Laundry Service
- 1992 - 1997 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Sunday, January 19, 1997
2-7:00 p.m. with a prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Sunday, January 19, 1997, 7 p.m.

Burial: Tuesday, January 21, 1997 leaving Our Lady of Angels 9:30 a.m.
to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL, S8-L339-G4

Survived by: her brother Joseph Orlosky, her sisters Ann Orlosky and Margaret (Vaughn) Heider and sister-in-law Helen Orlosky. Her brothers Michael Orlosky and Andrew Orlosky and her sister Irene Krynski preceded her in death.

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

Sister Rosarita Orlosky was born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania on August 5, 1912, to Anna and Andrew Orlosky. At her baptism on August 11, 1912, she was named Mary Elizabeth. The roots of faith were deep and the bonds of love were strong for Mary and her brothers and sisters: Andrew, Michael, Ann, Joseph, Irene and Margaret. They attended St. Stephen Parochial School and came to know and love the Joliet Franciscan sisters.

Mary's grandmother and Sister Emmanuel Miller, who was the parish organist, were instrumental in encouraging Mary to become a Franciscan Sister. Her pastor, The Rev. John Martvon, wrote to recommend his young parishioner saying: "Mary is a youth of good pious character, the daughter of good Catholic parents. She was always very diligent in aiding her parents in the care and support of the younger children."

On September 8, 1931, when she was nineteen years old, Mary came to Joliet to become a postulant. The following August, Mary was received into the novitiate and was given the name Sister Mary Rosarita. In a letter written to Mother Thomasine, requesting to make first vows, Sister Rosarita wrote: "Since I entered religious life, I have felt as though our dear Lord has drawn me more closely to Him. He has laid before me the path which I am to walk....A certain deep joy seems to be ever with me."

Her path in following the Lord led her to many parish convents in Illinois and Ohio, where she sought to make a home for her Franciscan family in a way similar to the way she had cared for her family in their home in Johnstown. Sisters who lived with her remember her joyful, prayerful spirit as well as her desire to provide for others and to surprise them with special things she had made. Sister Rosarita also became known as an "in house" sportscaster. Often she would be there to update anyone who missed the major plays of the baseball games. She had an informed opinion on most of the players and managers.

Sister Rosarita was always close to her family. She enjoyed their visits, letters, packages and phone calls. She would proudly show their pictures to anyone who was interested, including those of the twins who were just born this past year.

In 1967, when Sister Rosarita came to Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, she continued to help out by spending many hours helping to fold the laundry for the sisters. This was a joyful part of her prayer and service. Although she was hospitalized several times for surgery and tests, Sister Rosarita was always there with kind concern and a smile for all around her. Her family often came to visit her. On Friday morning, January 17, Sister Rosarita took her final journey on her path to God and died peacefully with her sisters and her family at her side.

Sister Rosarita, we thank you for showing us a joyful way to serve our God. May the path that led you closer to Jesus, be made wider by many who will come after you to experience the joy of serving God as a dedicated religious. May you enjoy the presence of Jesus and his Mother, together with members of your family and your Franciscan Congregation, as you now make your eternal home in heaven. Amen. Alleluia.

