



SISTER ROSE FRANCES GILMORE, OLVM

SISTER ROSE FRANCES GILMORE, OLVM, 91, died December 18, 2019, at Saint Anne Community at Victory Noll, in Huntington. Her sisters, Kathleen Oing and Mary Margaret Gardiner, along with her niece, Mary Zomorodi and nephew Michael Oing were with her when she quietly breathed her last and slipped into the embrace of her loving God.

Sister Rose Frances was born in Butte, Montana, on August 4, 1928, to John Joseph Gilmore and Laura Cecilia Byrne Gilmore. She was the second daughter of nine children. She was baptized Frances Rose on August 19, 1928, at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church in Butte. She was preceded in death by her parents and three brothers, John Joseph Gilmore, Jr., Timothy Gilmore, and Rev. Raymond Gilmore; and one sister, Marie Gilmore. Two brothers survive her, Gerald Gilmore of Lolo, Montana, and Michael Gilmore of Roseville, California; and two sisters, Mary Margaret Gardiner of Santee, California, and Kathleen Oing of San Jose, California. Also surviving Sister Rose Frances are her many nieces and nephews and her Victory Noll Sisters with whom she shared life and community for 63 years.

Sister Rose Frances attended Saint Joseph Catholic Elementary School and Girls Central High School in Butte. She worked for several years as a typist for the Chancery office in the Archdiocese of San Francisco before entering the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters on September 6, 1956. After making first vows on August 5, 1959, she was missioned to California where she would serve for the next 10 years.

She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Mount Saint Mary's College in Los Angeles, California, in 1969 and earned her Master of Religious Education degree from Seattle University, in Seattle, Washington in 1972. She spent the majority of her ministry in religious education, a ministry that was her passion, especially ministering with adults. She served in the Religious Education Office in the Diocese of San Diego, and as Parish Director of Adult Religious Education in both Utah and California. She was elected to the OLVM Leadership Team for the Congregation from 2000 to 2004. After the election it was said that this team would have 24/7 coverage, with Sister Rose Frances covering the night shift.

Anyone who knew or worked with Sister Rose Frances soon learned how she hated mornings, but loved the night. In one parish, she worked from 2 PM until 10 PM and thought it was the best arrangement.

After finishing her term in leadership, she returned to Southern California to be close to her family and to be with the Sisters in the area. She came back to Victory Noll in 2010 to work specifically with the Congregation's Resource Sharing program until it became the John Joseph Sigstein Foundation in 2014.

Anyone walking into Sister Rose Frances' office or bedroom would assume it to be in chaos, with piles of papers and a stack of books. Yet she usually knew exactly where things were located. She was an avid reader of everything from current theology to a good crime novel. She also stayed on top of what was going on in the Congregation, the country, the larger Church and the world. She found the Kindle to be the best invention because she could have many more books available without having to visit the library or to go to the bookstore.

Sister Rose Frances had a good mind and was a critical thinker. She could propose a way forward after taking a complicated issue, sorting out what was said in the conversation, and articulating her insights. It was one reason why she often served on committees for the Congregation and was a good catechist. She could help others understand the faith and help them to know how to apply it to their life.

Sometimes it was hard for Sister Rose Frances to be here at Victory Noll because she loved wide-open skies and vast horizon, both so common in her home state of Montana and in California where she lived for many years. She was a true person of Irish descent, enjoying a good joke, long conversations and pasties, an Irish miner's lunch.

Sister Rose Frances' family, Kathleen Oing, Mary Margaret Gardiner, Mary Zomorodi and Michael Oing, joined the community for her funeral on Friday evening, December 20, 2019. Burial took place in the Victory Noll Cemetery on Saturday morning December 21, 2019. The sky was blue and the sun shone warm down upon those gathered to say their last goodbye.

Sister Rose Frances, you have traveled many roads and led many people to deepen their relationship with God. May that same God now welcome you home, where there is no sorrow, pain or tears, only joy, peace, friendship and love.

With gratitude and blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sr. Ginger Downey OLM". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and "D".

Sr. Ginger Downey, OLM