

April 26, 2012

Dear Sisters, Associates, Family and Friends,

Sister Rose Elizabeth Hohner died peacefully at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 9, 2012 at Holy Family Health Care Center. Sister Dorothy Anne Lengerich was with sister, praying for her until she gently passed. Sister Rose Elizabeth declined over a few weeks. She had been on Hospice and kept comfortable until God called her home.

Sister Rose Elizabeth was born in Wheatfield, Indiana on July 13, 1914 to Joseph Hohner and Wilhelmina Schiffgens Hohner. Three brothers, Bernard, Andrew, and Joseph Hohner, and one sister, Catherine Hammond, preceded her in death. Two sisters, Rita Schab of Fort Lupton, Colo., and Eileen Wagner of Hickory Hills, Ill., survive.

Sister Rose Elizabeth entered the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters on August 29, 1934 and made first Profession of Vows on August 15, 1937 at Victory Noll, and her Perpetual Vows on August 5, 1942 at Victory Noll.

She served God and God's people in the missions of Indiana, Michigan, Texas, and New Mexico. Throughout her missionary life, Sister served as Superior or Councilor in most of her missions. Her principle ministry was in the nursing field. She served as a Certified Nurse's Aide in the nursing department at Victory Noll for more than twenty years. Her gentle, kind spirit was a healing touch to all the sisters she ministered to. She had a presence that revealed God's love, care, and joy that made one feel at peace.

In addition to her nursing ministry Rose Elizabeth had many other creative gifts. She was an excellent cook and helped in Holy Family Kitchen. She was also a good seamstress and did sewing for sisters in Holy Family. Crafts of every kind were another gift. She made beautiful Rosaries. Rose Elizabeth also loved gardening and grew some beautiful flowers. She portrayed a great reverence for God's creation and showed great care for the environment. If this was not enough, Sister also did hair care for several years in Holy Family Building. She gave of herself unselfishly for love of God and her sisters. Rose Elizabeth continued these ministries at Victory Noll plus serving as Sacristan in Our Lady of Victory Chapel until her retirement in 2009.



At the Vigil Service on Thursday evening, Sister Rose Elizabeth's cousin Cathy Fitzgerald was present. The opening hymn chose by Rose Elizabeth was "Eye Has Not Seen." This hymn was so meaningful. It brings to our minds that no one can conceive of the beauty and love of eternal life with God if we but strive to love and serve God on Earth. Rose Elizabeth had this love for God in her joys and her sorrows, in health and sickness. All was for God's glory.

During the Eulogy, Sister Alma shared that despite her busy schedule, Rose Elizabeth joined Church Women United and with this group helped to prepare school supplies, sewing and health kits for children in the Third World.

After the Vigil we continued our sharing of memories about Rose Elizabeth, as we enjoyed refreshments in our dining room. Cathy Fitzgerald shared that she met Rose Elizabeth at a family reunion when Cathy was five years old. Throughout the years their spiritual friendship grew and they shared very deeply during their many visits and outings. Cathy continued to visit and pray with Sister Rose Elizabeth here at Victory Noll until the very last weeks of her life. She shared how she treasured a cookbook that Rose Elizabeth had written. When Sister told her that

she was going to get rid of it, Cathy said, "Oh no, please let me have it." So, this special cookbook created by Rose Elizabeth with all her favorite recipes will remain in her family. Sister Mary Helen shared that she lived with Sister Rose Elizabeth at Archbishop Noll's house for five years. Sister Rose Elizabeth was not only his homemaker, but also an excellent caregiver. Sister Mary Helen said that the Archbishop held her in high esteem. She said Rose Elizabeth was sensitive to him, anticipated his needs, and always responded helpfully and appropriately to what he needed. Sister Mary Helen also said, "My first reaction to the word of her death was, how fitting that there are beautiful flowers on the altar. She truly loved flowers and cultivated them."

Sister Beaty shared that Sister Rose Elizabeth had a heart for the poor. She loved to donate to Covenant House which ministers to and works with homeless youth who live on the street, as Covenant House helps them to have a new beginning.

Both Sisters Ann Therese and Betty mentioned Rose Elizabeth's commitment to the Charismatic Renewal. She had a great love for the prayer meetings where she and other sisters would join in prayer, praise, and song to God in a very free and uplifting way. Though quiet by nature, she was a free spirit during these gatherings.

On Friday, April 13, 2012, we celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial. Sister's nephew Dan Hammond and his daughter Heather, her niece Marion Truett and her daughter Catherine Rastooski and grandsons, Colin and Joseph, and her cousin Cathy Fitzgerald and her daughters Ann Fitzgerald, Margie Smith, and Lora Miller were present for the Liturgy.

Sisters Millicent and Christopher placed the Pall on the casket, and Sister Christopher placed the crucifix. Sister Rose Elizabeth chose Psalm 63 as a response to the Reading. It states, "My soul is thirsting for you my God" and her choice for the hymn during the Preparation of the Gifts was, "Here I am Lord". Both choices are significant in that they reveal that Rose Elizabeth's desire in life was to do God's will so that her thirst for union with God could be fulfilled.

In his homily Father Fahey spoke of Jesus' Resurrection, that because He rose, death could be joyful, for we too will rise and be with the Lord. Father shared that Sister was a beautiful soul, a fervent religious. She had deep faith and was filled with joy and peace. Father said, "Sister Rose Elizabeth has begun eternal life with God, let us rejoice and be glad."

After Mass, we processed to the cemetery, where we laid Sister Rose Elizabeth to rest with the final prayers, blessing of the casket, and singing of the hymn, "We Have a Holy Mother." A delicious dinner to celebrate Rose Elizabeth's life followed.

Sister Rose Elizabeth, your thirst to see the living God is now complete. We ask your prayers as we continue on the journey toward eternal joy with God.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sister Betty Anderson, O.L.V.M." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

Sister Elizabeth Anderson, OLVM
General Secretary