



SISTER ROSE ANTHONY McCLOSKY

Sister Rose Anthony was born in San Antonio, Texas, on January 5, 1928, the fourth of five children born to Frank and Bronistava (Bessie) Kolonko McClosky. Three days later, on January 8, 1928, she was baptized Rose Marie at St. Michael's Catholic Church. At her confirmation in 1941 she took the name Anthony, a combination that she kept until her death. Her parents and one brother, Eugene McClosky, preceded sister in death. Three sisters, Louise Mulhern, Leocadia Butts and Isabel Grothues, all of San Antonio, Texas, survive her.

Sister Rose Anthony entered the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters on November 27, 1946, and made first vows on August 5, 1949. Her first mission was in Brawly, California. Three years later she was missioned in Redlands, California. Other than serving a few years more years in California and one year in Florida, she spent all of her missionary years in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas and then retired to San Antonio, before moving back to Victory Noll in 2008.

Sister Rose Anthony knew from the time she was in fifth grade she wanted to be a missionary and she said a special prayer each day for that intention. By the time she was in high school, her pastor, Father Collins, had noticed her work in CCD at the parish. The day he left for his new assignment in California, he mentioned that she should be a Missionary Catechist. She asked him who they were and he told her he would be back when she graduated from high school in three years.

Graduation from high school came, and with no contact from Father Collins, she asked her new pastor, Father Ryan, about the Missionary Catechists. Father Ryan had not heard of the Missionary Catechists, so he referred her to the Maryknolls. Sister Rose Anthony decided that would be fine. As fate would have it, Father Collins arrived back in San Antonio the following week, asked her if she was ready to be Missionary Catechist. He promised her the address of their house in San Antonio, as they had opened a house there. Another several months passed, while he looked but did not find the address.

“Divine Providence” intervened and brought Sister Rose Anthony into contact with the community in December of 1945. She met Sisters Mary Helen Rogers, Rafaela Mendoza and Anna Hitzler waiting to see the movie, “The Bells of St. Mary’s” in downtown San Antonio. She recognized the habits of the Sisters, since Father Collins described them to her. She walked up to them, introduced herself and told them she would like to join their Order. Neither Father Collins nor the Sisters had anything to do with that meeting. It was only by the grace and hand of God.

Sister Rose Anthony received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1968 from Our Lady of the Lake College in San Antonio, and then earned a Master's degree in Religious Education from St. Thomas University in Houston, Texas. She loved her work in religious education and after completing a unit in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) she went back to the parish stating in a letter, "I am not sorry I changed (from CPE to the parish for parish pastoral ministry) because I love the parish here." She went on to say that she found her CPE training very beneficial to her parish ministry. She would continue in those two areas — religious education and pastoral care — even after officially retiring so she could continue to help with RCIA and visiting to the sick.

Two nieces of Sister Rose Anthony, Joan Woods and Jeanelle Tabor, were able to be with the Victory Noll community for the wake and funeral. It was during the wake that several spoke of Sister Rose Anthony's love of teaching, from gathering the young children of the neighborhood on the front porch of her home before entering the congregation, to her many years in parish religious education and adult faith formation. She had a tremendous love of catechetics, for rural people and for all of God's creatures.

The funeral liturgy was celebrated on a snowy day, December 14, 2013, the Saturday just before Gaudete Sunday. In his homily, Father Dale Bauman made the connection between Gaudete Sunday, the rose Sunday, the Sunday of rejoicing, goodness, peace and love and the feast of John of the Cross, the date of the funeral, with the life of Sister Rose Anthony. He said that Sister Rose Anthony embodied both the rejoicing of Gaudete Sunday and the pain and struggle of John of the Cross, in her life. He also spoke of how a rose can brighten the face of the one who receives it, and as it opens it brings much joy. Now Sister Rose Anthony is unfolding, as her name suggests, in the glory and joy of heaven.

Sister Rose Anthony, by your smile and your life you have brought much joy to our lives. We will remember you in many ways and are most thankful for your ministry to the People of God. May you now rejoice with all those with whom you touched with your life, ministry and by your joy, goodness, peace and love.

In the rejoicing of God with us,

Sr. Ginger Downey OLM

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