

October 8, 2021

The Sisters and Associates lost a dear friend and a loving mother and grandmother on August 31st when Rosalia (Rose) Pentecost peacefully entered into eternal life. Rose made her Associate commitment in 1998, deepening the connection she already had to the Sisters. Her Franciscan roots are strong because her daughter Robbie is a member of the Community.



Rose was also mother to Mike (Karen) and stepmom to Ken (Bev) and Dan (Belinda) Pentecost. She was preceded in death by her late husband, Ralph. She came from a large family, six brothers and two sisters. Longevity ran in her family and she thought she would live longer than any of her brothers and sisters, although her mother reached the age of 99. But her family was much larger than blood, so many called her mom, granny, auntie. Her sister Jane says that Rosie was the heart of the family.

Joining the Springfield Chapter of the Missourians to Abolish the Death Penalty she was dedicated to abolishing the death penalty and received a Citizen Recognition Award in 2009 for her social justice work. She joined the group of Associates from the St. Louis area that included her good friend and contact person Sr. Marian Boberschmidt.

In 2014 Rose moved to Kentucky to live with Robbie where she embraced the many opportunities to offer hospitality for people and animals. Her welcoming spirit touched many lives, especially people in her parish or the women Sr. Robbie works with as Executive Director of the New Opportunity School for Women. Barbara often crossed Rose's path calling her "Granny" and staying by her side most of the six weeks before she passed.

Whether she was taking communion to the homebound, serving meals to children in the school, welcoming refugees, providing hospitality to cancer patients, or hosting funeral dinners, Rose was always available to serve. If she wasn't living into her role as, "Granny Rose," through her actions, she was praying for friends, family, and all who suffer because of illness, loss or inequality. In the last days of her life she received many visits: from a family who came to the U.S. as Vietnamese refugees, Zooming with their children the Saturday before she passed away, a call from friends in South Africa, and a message from Ricardo, a foreign exchange student from Brazil who lived with Rose's family in the late 1970's. Another graduate came from Tennessee to see her the day she passed away.

Rose always had a joyful spirit and a sense of humor. The doctors and nurses caring for her appreciated her cheerful disposition and surely sensed her unwavering faith that God was with her in each moment of her life, including her final moments on August 31st. She was not only the heart of her family, but the heart of her many communities. Rose taught us how to live life fully, and how to die lovingly. She will be greatly missed by her family, friends, and our Franciscan community.

In loving memory,
Carolyn Meyer and Sr. Robbie Pentecost