



## **SISTER ROSANNE PALMER, OLVM**

SISTER ROSANNE PALMER, OLVM, 102, died at 10:55 PM on February 20, 2018, at Saint Anne Community at Victory Noll, Huntington.

Sister Rosanne was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on February 9, 1916, the middle child and only daughter of Randall Palmer and Margaret Powers Palmer. She was baptized Rose Anne on March 12, 1916, at Saint Boniface Church in Cleveland, Ohio.

Sister Rosanne is preceded in death by both of her parents and her two brothers, Edmund and John Palmer. She is survived by nieces, nephews and by her Victory Noll Sisters with whom she shared life and community for 35 years.

After graduation from Ursuline Sacred Heart Academy, Sister Rosanne attended Ursuline College and graduated in 1938. She worked at St. Joseph Academy and John Carroll University in the registrar's office and started working part time in social work with the Cuyahoga County Relief agency. She joined the staff of Catholic Charities and worked in Denver, Colorado, and in Spokane, Washington. She returned to college and graduated from St. Louis University with a Master's degree in Social Work in 1952. She was a charter member of the National Associate of Social Workers, founded in 1955. Sister Rosanne's work was always in the field of child social services.

One of the favorite places where she lived and worked was in Hawaii. She often told stories of her work there and of her world travels that she taken on before she entered the Congregation.

In a *Visions* article, Sister Rosanne shared that for 12 years she had resisted the pull to religious life, believing it was a delusion. Close friends encouraged her to discern God's will for her life. The opportunity came while working in Denver, where she met Victory Noll Sister Mary Alice Murphy, who invited her to join the Denver Covenant Associate group. It was during her time within this group when she finally decided to answer the call to religious life. She entered the congregation in San Antonio, Texas, in August of 1983 and made first vows on August 3, 1985. She continued to use her training in social work serving in Texas, California, and Arizona. Sister Rosanne returned to Victory Noll in 2001.

Sister Rosanne said “at the age of 67 and living alone for many years, living in community was a ‘culture shock.’” She embraced the difficulties and advantages of community life and this commitment wrenched her out of her old lifestyle and forced her to “let go and let God.” She began the important process of emptying herself of her own will and opening herself to God and God’s people.

One thing that may not be known about Sister Rosanne is that she loved ice hockey. For one of her birthdays, Sr. Karen Knecht and Sr. Ginger Downey took her to the University of Arizona Ice Cats game. She was thrilled as it brought back memories of watching hockey growing up in Cleveland. She had not been to a game in a long time. The Sisters arranged to have Happy Birthday played for her over the loud speakers during the contest.

Sister Rosanne loved music and many of us will remember her “directing” the music during liturgy here at Victory Noll. She would also give little hints to the homilist if she thought he had gone on too long.

She loved reading and was particularly fond of mystery novels. A special thank you goes to Jim Ritter, who spent hours reading to Sr. Rosanne after she lost her eyesight. Jim was sitting by Rosanne’s bed reading to her on the Monday before her death.

Several members of Rosanne’s family were able to join the Victory Noll Community for her wake and funeral. The vigil was at 4 p.m. on Thursday February 22, 2018, and her funeral was Friday February 23, 2018. Both services were held at Archbishop Noll Memorial Chapel. Reverend Michael Lobo, the Chaplain at Saint Anne Community at Victory Noll, presided at the funeral liturgy.

Sister Rosanne had a long and adventurous life. May the adventure continue as she explores heaven and listens intently to the choirs of angels.

With gratitude and blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sr. Ginger Downey OLM". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sr. Ginger Downey, OLM