



SISTER ROSE ANN KAISER, OLVM, died peacefully Friday morning, September 23, 2022, at Saint Anne's Victory Noll.

Sister Rose Ann was born in Jefferson City, Missouri, on July 15, 1933, to Lawrence Kaiser and Johanna (Thessen) Kaiser. Her baptism took place the next day at St. Peter's Catholic Church. One brother, Lawrence, survives Sister Rose Ann.

Sister Rose Ann's family ran a boarding house and she felt this was a benefit to living in community. When she was thinking of entering religious life, she spoke to her pastor. When she told him the congregation she was thinking about joining, he said, "You could not have chosen better." Sister Rose Ann entered the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters on September 6, 1960, and made first vows on August 5, 1963. Sister Rose Ann served in Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry in Texas, California, Massachusetts, Indiana, Michigan, Utah, Missouri and Illinois. She was one of a team of Sisters who wrote and produced 45 episodes for a religious education television series aimed for parents of pre-school children. Sister Rose Ann was the coordinator of community arts programs in Ogden, Utah and Gary, Indiana. She served the congregation on many committees and was coordinator for the Covenant Associates.

Sister Rose Ann received her bachelor's degree in English from Saint Francis College in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1968 and then her master's degree in education from Saint John's College in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1975. Her research paper for her master's degree was in the use of the arts in religious education.

Sister Rose Ann had a passion for creativity, as was seen in her love of the arts. She enjoyed literature, especially poetry, music and drama. She was always reading and often quoted poetry as part of her daily living. In the homily at her funeral her friend, Father Tim Gray, SCJ, quoted the first poem she shared with him some 50 years ago. It was the Robert Frost poem, "The Silken Tent." In the poem, Father Tim saw Sister Rose Ann for who she was, not only to him, but also to the many people who were touched by her effervescent and optimistic view on life. Her ability to describe almost any situation as "wonderful" or "glorious" was a very real part of her being.

Sister Rose Ann had a passion for justice and was an adventurous spirit. She often spoke of a Victory Noll Sister's need to have an adventurous spirit. She saw each new place of ministry as a new quest or a place to see the wonder of God working in the

people. She worked among many different cultures and ethnic groups across the country from Massachusetts to California and many places in-between. Sister Rose Ann celebrated the uniqueness of each place and culture.

Part of Sister Rose Ann's commitment to social justice included using her feet, not just her voice. She walked picket lines and protested many different injustices. She took part in the "Pax Christi Desert Experience" in 1991 to protest the testing of nuclear devices in the Nevada desert. Her passion for justice continued even into her retirement at Victory Noll, where she was remained active in national and international justice and peace issues. When she could no longer go to the rallies in person, she used social media to continue to add her voice to the causes she believed in.

Father Tim Gray joined the Sisters on Sunday evening, September 25, 2022, to begin the time of celebration for Sister Rose Ann's presence in our lives, whether it was as a Sister or a friend. He gave the eulogy at the vigil, then presided at the funeral liturgy on Monday morning, September 26, 2022. He ended his homily with these words: "Each time we experience an invitation to love, whether by loving another or allowing ourselves to be loved, it is a sure sign that we are moving closer to that moment when the pruning is ended, and we experience, as Rose Ann has, the joy of that perfect connection with God, the source of Eternal Life."

This past April, Sister Rose Ann made the request that she be buried with the book, "The Emergent Christ" by Sister Ilia Delio, OSF. The book explains the story of the evolving universe through the cosmic understanding of God as creator and the emergence of Christ as the on-going fulfilment of creation. It concludes with learning to see Christ in all things. It was how Sister Rose Ann grew to understand her place in the cosmos. In the words of Sojourner Truth, Sister Rose Ann "went home like a shooting star."

With gratitude and blessings,

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

Sr. Ginger Downey, OLVM