Sister Rose Zita Rosonke, OLVM, was born into this world in Carroll, Iowa, on June 29, 1938, to Stephan Rosonke and Mary Therese (Reiling) Rosonke. She departed this world on October 21, 2026, in Warren, Indiana. She is survived by one sister, Dolores Herbers of Manning, Iowa, many nieces and nephews, and her Victory Noll Sisters with whom she shared life for 69 years. Her parents and brothers Leon, Brother Paul, CSC, and Virgil preceded her in death.

The day of her funeral Mass was a perfectly beautiful, sunny, warm autumn day. Her sister Dolores, along with more than a dozen nieces and nephews from Iowa, Nebraska, North Carolina and Tennessee, many Victory Noll Sisters and several Associates, two Holy Cross Brothers, co-workers, former co-workers and friends gathered at SS. Peter and Paul Church in Huntington, Indiana, for Sister Rose Zita's visitation and funeral Mass. After the burial in the Victory Noll cemetery, a delicious luncheon was served in the Knights of Columbus Hall in Huntington.

Rose Zita and I entered the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters together on September 5, 1957, and made our first vows on August 5, 1960. Rose Zita served in our missions in Michigan, California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, Arizona, Fort Wayne, IN, and in Huntington, at Victory Noll, as Sacristan for several years and on the staff of the Victory Noll Center until it closed.

Most of Sr. Rose Zita's missionary life was involved in youth ministry, serving as catechist and religious education facilitator for many parishes throughout the years. Most significant in my memory were her ministries among Native American children in the Southwest of our country, her many years in Wyoming with Sr. Josephine Konrad, and her years at Most Precious Blood Parish in Fort Wayne, Indiana. It was through "oneness" with the youth and a ministry of presence with others that Sr. Rose Zita was able to live out the purpose of her ministry: "As missionaries, we want to encourage and involve the people in their own call to leadership and mission." What a special blessing we shared with Sister Rose Zita on the day of her funeral that one of the catechists she encouraged at Most Precious Blood Parish in Fort Wayne was the presider for her funeral Mass, Father David Ruppert!

What I will remember and appreciate most about Sr. Rose Zita is her love for and gift of expressing beauty. I noticed this in the spaces she decorated: chapels, the

VN Center, our Heritage Pointe Eucharistic Chapel, her own doorway there. Also, in the greeting cards she created and sent. She also loved and contributed to the beauty of music among us with her accordion. (I was especially envious of her ability to play by ear!) She also delighted in arranging with Jim Didier to bring his parish choral and handbell choirs to the VN campus for an Epiphany concert to close the Christmas season for many years.

I greatly appreciated her suggestions and artistic input as the two of us served as co-chairs of our Centennial Committee 4 years ago. This included creative, flexible and challenging planning through the early years of the pandemic!

We are grateful, Sr. Rose Zita, for your faithful love and service in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus. We rejoice that you have now attained what we all strive for: being a part of God's eternal kingdom!

Sister Rita Musante OLVM

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