

Sister Rose Marie Dobelman, C.PP.S.

Born: December 19, 1933

Professed: August 10, 1954

Entered into Life: June 11, 2019

Verse on her memorial card:

“You have been told what the Lord requires of you; only to do justice, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)



June 12, 2019

Dear Sisters,

At 6:11 a.m. on Tuesday, June 11, 2019 our Sister Rose Marie Dobelman slipped from this life to the next as quietly and humbly as she lived. A mere seven weeks earlier, on April 23, she received the news that her cancer had returned, and that the prognosis was six months. Even as Rose Marie struggled to grasp the possibility that she might be gone by October, her faith and trust in God’s love enabled her to move forward bravely and with her characteristic positive attitude.

Rose Marie was born in Old Monroe, MO, the older of two children of Adolph and Agnes Fanning Dobelman. She arrived on December 19, 1933, an early Christmas gift to her parents. In her autobiography, she describes her close-knit family and the life-long friendship she shared with her brother, John (Jack). When Rose Marie was eleven years old, her mother died quite suddenly of spinal meningitis. This early lesson in the fragility of life shaped her enduring belief in the sacredness of each person.

Although she spent her first two years of high school as an aspirant with our community, at that time Rose Marie was not seriously interested in becoming a Sister. When the aspirancy closed, Rose Marie finished her high school education at St. Elizabeth Academy. After graduation our Sisters asked her to teach 5th grade at St. Stephen’s School. She came to O’Fallon to receive help with lesson plans, and one week later she entered the community as a postulant.

Sister Rose Marie (Mary Martin) entered our novitiate on July 25, 1952, and professed first vows on August 10, 1954. She earned her first degree in history from Fontbonne College and later completed a Master’s degree in religious education at Boston College. In addition, she completed the course work necessary for certification by the American Montessori Society.

Her first assignment was as a primary teacher at St. Joseph School in Des Moines, IA from 1954-57. Returning to Missouri, she taught primary grades at St. Clement of Rome for eight years. After a year of full-time study to complete her Bachelor’s degree, she founded and served as the first director of our Linda Vista Montessori School. A colleague, in nominating her for the Boston College Alumni Excellence award, described her as “a teacher of teachers.”

In 1973, Sister Rose Marie's service took a new direction when she became the Director of Religious Education (DRE) at St. Clare of Assisi Parish in Ellisville. She continued ministry as DRE at St. Joseph Parish in Clayton and Most Precious Blood and Queen of All Saints Parishes in St. Louis. When she left St. Joseph Parish, a parent wrote, "The religious education curriculum has continually become better, and the participation and level of involvement by the parents has increased dramatically. Sister Rose has been an inspiration to all of us, as she guided the program steadily in a forward direction, and has done it with warmth, sensitivity, humor and flexible response to the needs of parents and children alike."

Since 2007, Sister Rose Marie served in adult faith education at All Saints Parish in St. Peters, MO. She described this ministry as focusing on the ongoing spiritual development of senior adults. She wrote, "Our goal is to come to see aging not as the beginning of the end, but as part of God's eternal plan for human happiness." This goal was more than mere pedagogic belief – she modeled this with her life. She continued this ministry until very recently, as far as her health would permit. Her influence inspired the members of one of her study groups to become CPPS Partners in Mission. These friends and Partners visited and accompanied her as she made the journey through death to new life.

Sister Rose Marie was preceded in death by her parents, her step-mother Pearl, and her brother, Jack. She is survived by her sister-in-law, Helen, and by nieces, nephews and grand nieces and nephews. Let us hold them in prayer along with her profession classmate, Sister Viola Marie Spire, and her faithful friend, Father Patrick Ryan.

Sister Rose Marie's body will return to St. Joseph Chapel at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, June 14, 2019 and her wake will be from 4:30 – 8 p.m. with a Prayer Service of Thanksgiving at 7 p.m. Her wake will continue Saturday, June 15, from 9 – 10:45 a.m. with her Funeral Mass at 11 a.m., all in St. Joseph Chapel.

Sister Rose Marie chose the words of the prophet Micah for her memorial card: "You have been told what the Lord requires of you: only to do justice, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God." Sister Rose Marie lived by these words. We rejoice with her as she now walks in a new, pain-free way with her God.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sr. Janice Bader".

Sr. Janice Bader