

We of Nojoshing

Nojoshing – Indian word for the area where our pioneer members settled in 1849; it means "piece of land stretching into the water." The name was changed later to St. Francis, Wisconsin.



Newsletter of The New Assisi Archives of the
SISTERS of ST. FRANCIS of ASSISI, 3221 South Lake Drive, St. Francis, WI 53235-3799

We celebrate the memory of our beloved Sister Marie Rose (Alice) Petrie January 29, 1937 – July 16, 2021

Sister Marie Rose, who was baptized Alice, was born at home in Mt. Calvary, Wis., to Urban and Mary Ann (Schmitz) Petrie. She was the youngest child and fifth daughter in a family of seven. Alice entered our congregation on September 8, 1954. As a postulant, she taught first grade at St. Gerard and St. Sebastian Schools in Milwaukee. When Alice became a novice in 1955, she received the name Sister Marie Rose and resumed teaching at St. Sebastian as a second-year novice.

Sister Marie Rose professed vows in 1957 and was transferred to St. Coletta, Jefferson, Wis. She ministered there for five years as an intermediate teacher and group parent until she became ill in January of 1962. Her digestive issues would eventually be diagnosed as Crohn's disease. By the fall of that year, Sister Marie Rose was teaching at St. Agnes and the next year at St. Sebastian, Milwaukee. During this time, she took classes part time and completed her bachelor's degree at Cardinal Stritch University. Illness overtook her again in January of 1969, and she spent six months recuperating. The following school year she was a remedial teacher at Our Lady of Solace, Chicago, Ill.

Sister Marie Rose taught at St. Joseph School, Lyons, Wis., in 1970 -71. In 1972, she began studies at the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater, and earned a Master of Science degree in psychology in 1974. During her studies, she worked part time at St. Coletta for one year and then at St. John School, Jefferson, Wis., as a math teacher part time as well as in the CCD program in the parish until she finished her degree. She served from 1974-75 as a school psychologist for the Handicapped Children's Board in three school districts in northern Door County in Wisconsin before joining the Milwaukee Archdiocesan Office of Education in 1975. She worked as a school psychologist, maintained a supportive consultant program for teachers, and also developed a teacher program for gifted students. In 1981, Sister Marie Rose came to Cardinal Stritch University as a half-time faculty member in the Psychology Department, teaching undergrad and grad students. In collaboration with the Reading and Learning Center at Stritch, she started and coordinated a math center.

Sister Marie Rose returned to St. Coletta, Jefferson, in 1988 and served as a school psychologist until 1996. She then moved to Racine, Wis., and served at Sacred Heart School as a learning specialist, school psychologist and coordinator of the parish CCD program. During this time, she studied part time at Cardinal Stritch University and earned a Master of Arts degree in religious studies.

In 2003, Sister Marie Rose moved back to Milwaukee and served at Prince of Peace school as a learning specialist until her retirement in 2007.

Living at Canticle Court on the Motherhouse grounds in retirement gave Sister Marie Rose many opportunities to explore the abundant natural beauty outdoors and to capture it with the lens of her camera. The photos of sunrises over Lake Michigan attest to her love for rising early in the morning. She captured flowers in bloom and occasionally some wildlife. With her computer skills, she turned her photos into greeting cards, framed pictures, coasters and more.

In spite of her physical ailments and the challenges they presented, she enjoyed life. Her family, classmates and friends were important relationships for her. At the time of her 50th Jubilee in 2007, she wrote: "I marvel at the incredible goodness of a God who has filled my life with so many marvelous blessings. If this is life on earth, what will heaven be like?" Her poetry reflects her relationship with God.

Sister Marie Rose lived briefly in the former Motherhouse before moving to the new convent in May of 2019 and resided in Elizabeth Hall. On June 25 of this year, she began a series of medical tests to determine treatment for pain she was experiencing. The tests concluded that surgery was necessary. Following the surgery, a second surgery was needed to find a source of infection. The infection spread and her body could not tolerate the treatment and she went into multi-organ failure. On July 11, she transitioned from the surgical ICU to hospice care at Froedert Hospital, and sisters began sitting with her.

At 6:30 a.m. on July 16, 2021, God called Sister Marie Rose home. Sister Regine Ehm, a classmate and close friend, was with her when she died peacefully.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

†Marie Colette Roy, OSF, and Marcia Lunz, OSF

**Poetry.com and the International Library of Poetry
Editor's Choice Award
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The Ripple Effect

One by one, gently, that seems to be my call to serve.
Not to make major impacts on society.
Rather, to touch in solitary ways
That will ripple on and on throughout eternity.

A small encounter here,
A loving acceptance there.
Not concerned with results, but attuned to the moment's need.
God will do the rest, God provides the ripple effect.

As in centuries past,
Seven loaves became twelve baskets left over.
Five fish fed the multitudes.

I am small, I am weak.
Just a single, individual human,
But God provides the ripple effect.

~ Marie R. Petrie