

GOD, FAMILY, COMMUNITY

Sister Rosanne Rottinghaus

February 19, 1933 - January 15, 2021

by JOAN LICKTEIG, PBVM

On February 19, 1933, Rose Marie was born, youngest daughter, to Catherine (Gudenkauf) and Joseph Rottinghaus in Dougherty, Iowa. On January 19, 2021 the Presentation community participated in the Celebration of New Life for Sister Rosanne, one month shy of her 88th birthday. She is survived by one brother, Joseph.

The Rottinghaus family comprised a balance of five girls: Winifred, Mary Catherine, Henrietta, Frances and Rose Marie and five boys: Anthony (Bud), Raymond, Raphael, John and James. Noteworthy is the fact that three of the five girls: Henrietta, Frances and Rose Marie became Presentation Sisters. Rose Marie entered the Sisters of the Presentation from Charles City, Iowa, on September 8, 1951, was received and named Sister Mary Rosanne in June 1952, and professed her perpetual vows in 1957.

Sister Rosanne earned a bachelor's degree from Loras College and served as music teacher and parish liturgist in Algona, Cedar Falls, Clare, Key West, Dubuque, Fairbank, Humboldt, Marion and Whittemore, all in Iowa, and in Timber Lake, South Dakota. She also served as pastoral associate in Osage, Iowa. Sister Rosanne valued prayer and community service and contributed her share to both. After 46 years of ministry, she retired to Mount Loretto in 2000, where she appreciated a more contemplative lifestyle, as well as more time with her siblings, Sister Michael and Sister Anthony. Working collaboratively, this artistic trio kept the Mount Loretto dining room decorated for each season and for all manner of special celebrations.

Sister Rosanne loved: God, family and Presentation community. Likewise, she loved life, fun, music, singing, dancing – and her prayer time. Each day she could be found occupying her favorite spot on the right-hand side of the chapel, sitting with open Scripture in quiet reflection. A favorite message from the prophet Isaiah (*Isaiah 43: 1-3*) is the one she chose as the first reading for her funeral liturgy. “Thus says the Lord, who created you and formed you. Fear not; I have called you by name: you are mine.” These words speak mightily of her vocation response and illumine her steadfast faith.

Outgoing, with a sense of humor and appreciation for socializing, Sister Rosanne could be counted on for a good

party, any time of the day or night – the cards always ready for dealing. Queen of hospitality, she usually provided the food as well, a snack or homemade dessert. Each of the “Three R’s,” as they labeled themselves for ready identification and quick sign-outs, was a superb cook and exquisite baker.

Sister Rosanne believed that the proper way to finish a meal was with a sweet treat or dessert of some kind. If such wasn't forthcoming she tapped into her personal resources housed in her desk drawer. She was a confirmed “snacker” be it sweet or salty with a choice of Cheetos, popcorn or marshmallow cookies. Sometimes she just had to sneak some Cheetos from her “stash” to get through the afternoon on a dull day, only to be discovered by the telltale orange smears around her mouth. Nighttime treats? Ice cream, preferably Blue Bunny, strawberry cheesecake, please, supplied by niece Judy – or popcorn, puppy chow, party mix – all to be shared.

Consistent with her sparkly personality, Sister Rosanne liked dressing up. On Sundays, holy days and special occasions, she stepped out with her Angey's-salon-touch, professional attire, decked in heels with her good posture and graceful carriage to match.

Sister Rosanne's physical absence leaves a void in our hearts. We miss you, Rosanne, your friendly and snappy comments, your concern for our families, your prayer power, your unmistakable generosity and, above all, your lighthearted spirit. How can we thank you? Fortunately your party-presence and your lively spirit remain with us: A game of cards, anyone?

