

## IN MEMORIAM



# Sr. Rose Ann Winkeljohn

(Sister Mary Robert)

BORN: May 1926

ENTERED CONGREGATION: August 8, 1942

DIED: May 16, 2011

**W**e gather today to celebrate the life of Sister Rose Ann Winkeljohn with her family and friends. We especially welcome her brother Don and his wife, Vera, and her sister Dorothy. We hold in our hearts her sisters Mary Ellen and Rita. We are pleased that Rita spent two weeks here accompanying Rose Ann and her sister Dorothy has also been able to spend two weeks with us.

Rose Ann Winkeljohn was born in May 1926, in Celina, Ohio. She was the third of eight children, two boys and six girls, born to Harry and Edna (Hartings) Winkeljohn. (Rose Ann's Dad teased her that, while he went fishing on the day she was born and didn't catch anything, he did find her when he got home.)

She attended Immaculate Conception School in Celina which was staffed by the Sisters of the Precious Blood. Through the example and the prayers of her parents and the sisters, her desire to be a sister grew. After eighth grade her parents gave her permission to come to Dayton and attend the high school of the sisters where she was an aspirant. On August 8, 1942, she entered as a postulant and made her first profession in 1945. She was given the name Sister Mary Robert, which she used until 1967 when she returned to her baptismal name.

Following profession, Sister Rose Ann's first assignment was teaching first grade at St. Mary School in Phoenix, Arizona. This began her 24 years of teaching, during which time she occasionally served as both teacher and principal. Her teaching career took her to Arizona, Missouri, California, Indiana and Ohio. In addition

to receiving a bachelor of science in education degree, she earned a master's in library science, with which she began her second career as a librarian. For seven years she served as librarian at St. Mary High School in Phoenix, followed by 11 years in that position at Moeller High School in Cincinnati. At Moeller she was only the third woman who had ever taught in the all-boys' school and the first sister. In 1988 she began her third career as curator of the museum and chapels at the Maria Stein Center.

In 1994, Sister Rose Ann retired to Arizona where four of her sisters were living. There she did volunteer work with senior citizens. This proved to be a mutually enriching experience for her and for the women with whom she met. In 2001 Rose Ann retired to Salem Heights where she continued to share her gifts with others.

Besides being a teacher, principal, librarian and curator Rose Ann was gifted with many talents. She took a cake decorating course and learned to make truly beautiful cakes, including a wedding cake she made for a friend. She loved to sew, and this led her to doll making. She delighted in giving each its own personality and its own name, reflected in the dress she made for it. None of us will forget these beautiful dolls she fashioned and sold to the delight of those who purchased them.

Rose Ann also loved to knit, and along with Sister Frances Kleman took on the request of a sister to make hats for some poor people in the Over-the-Rhine area in Cincinnati. In 2008 when they were written up in the *Catholic Telegraph* archdiocesan newspaper they were making 300 hats each year and providing them to a number of different agen-

cies. While she was in the hospital Rose Ann was concerned about who would take up this mission when both she and Frances would be in heaven.

Another talent Rose Ann had was doing *scherenschnitte* art, the craft of intricate paper cutting. For years many people were graced to receive a Christmas card using this art.

Sister's love for books stayed with her until her last days before her operations. In one of my first visits to the hospital I found her clutching her Nook e-book reader and wondering how she was going to be able to recharge it so that she could continue reading her book.

Rose Ann was very straightforward and direct, which could intimidate some people. At the same time she had a sense of humor that may have come from her father. She was a woman of faith and prayer which sustained her throughout numerous illnesses. Friends described her as a good listener, especially when they were sharing their troubles and sorrows with her.

Rose Ann left us in a relatively brief time — in a period of just three weeks. She was here at Salem Heights busy about many things when she developed pneumonia and had to be taken to the hospital. Then other problems arose which required one surgery, followed by a second one. Both together were too much for her 85-year-old body.

Rose Ann, we know that today you are with the Lord you loved and served for 85 years, 68 of them as a Sister of the Precious Blood. Thank you for all you have shared with us!

—Sister Edna Hess