

IN MEMORIAM



Sr. Rose Behr

(Sister Adelma)

BORN: November 1917

ENTERED CONGREGATION: October 15, 1936

DIED: May 18, 2007

JUST minutes after soft whispers of “goodbye” by her sisters and nieces, our Sister Rose Behr breathed a last breath and quietly slipped into eternity.

Rose was born in Pittsville, Wis., where she was the first child of William and Bertha (Schneider) Behr. Rose’s sister, Wilma, a past resident of the Maria-Joseph Living Care Center, preceded her in death just two weeks earlier, on May 4, 2007. Her other two sisters, Christine (Hnatt) and Agnes (Voisard), are here with us today, together with several nieces and other friends and relatives.

Rose entered the Sisters of the Precious Blood from McCartyville, Ohio, on October 15, 1936, and was known for many years as Sister Adelma. Sister Agnesine Benanzer (deceased) and Sister Adeline Mertz, past and present members of our CPPS community, are Rose’s cousins. Her uncle, Father Ignatius Behr, now deceased, was a member of the Salvatorian community.

For 35 years, Rose was involved in education as teacher and/or principal on the elementary, and junior high levels in Ohio, Virginia, Indiana and California. While in Rensselaer, Ind., she taught an evening course in language methods at St. Joseph College, in addition to her junior high teaching responsibilities.

As a counselor for the Cincinnati

Archdiocesan Summer School Abroad Program, Rose accompanied high school and college students for six weeks on a European educational tour to Rome, Innsbruck, Paris, Brussels and London. A highlight of the tour, and a lasting memory, was their audience with the Holy Father, Pope Paul VI.

In 1976, Rose moved on to a new ministry in Okolona, Miss. She volunteered for three summers for a Glenmary-sponsored program, Three Rivers Ministry, which provided a summer camp for disadvantaged youth. During the two academic years between, Sister Rose served as house mother, adding her womanly touch to the lives of seven adolescent boys for whom welfare provided food, clothing and shelter. Her main responsibility was to cook for the boys, but if you visited, you would see that she added a huge dose of care, love, and humor to their lives. Sister Rose also found time to tutor women ages 16 to 60—women who could not sign their name, write a check or read a bill. In addition, she also taught religious education.

Rose spent the next few years serving the residents at Maria-Joseph Living Care Center in Dayton before she moved on to a sabbatical at the Desert House of Prayer in Cortaro, Ariz. During her stay, she spent much time reading and praying, adding to her love for the contemplative life and a deep realization of the presence of Jesus surrounding her and

within her.

Following her sabbatical, Rose served for six years as environmental specialist and volunteer pastoral minister at St. Joseph Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix, Ariz. While at the medical center, Rose became acquainted with St. Anthony Parish, located near the Hispanic, Indian and black residential area of Phoenix. Rose claimed that it was here that her real missionary service began. Sacramental preparations were paramount, but she attended to every need that she possibly could. So vast were the needs in the parish that Rose said even 10 of her could not have fulfilled all of them.

Retirement became a reality in June 2003 when Rose moved to Salem Heights. Almost three years later, in February 2006, Rose moved to Emma Hall where her needs could be better met. Rose shared prayer, stories, and experiences with the other sisters as she moved through the halls of Emma. On May 18, 2007 at 3:15 p.m. — two weeks and 12 hours after her sister Wilma—God called Rose home to heaven.

Her favorite quote was: “In him I live, in him I move, in him I am all that I am” (Acts 17:28). Rose, now you can truly abide in the life, movement and being of God! Rest in God’s love and peace!

—Sister Madonna Ratermann