

IN MEMORIAM



Sr. Rosalie Kastner

BORN: October 1922

ENTERED CONGREGATION: August 15, 1937

DIED: March 28, 2019

Today we gather to remember and celebrate a life lived in joy and service to God's people, especially the little ones! In October 1922, in Dayton, Ohio, surely a day framed in full autumn glory, Theresa Marie Kastner arrived as the third daughter born to Theresa (Planner) Kastner and John Kastner. The family was complete when Helen, Irene and Theresa were joined by their youngest sister Lucille in 1924.

Life for the Kastner family took an unexpected turn when John lost his life to cancer in 1925. The young mother left to care for four young children reached out to the Sisters of the Precious Blood at St. Joseph's Home where the three youngest would reside for a year and a half until their mother remarried. This second marriage gave the Kastner girls a stepfather and eventually two stepbrothers, Chris and August, and their stepsister, Grace.

While at St. Joseph for only a short time, it was long enough for the Sisters of the Precious Blood to leave a lasting impression on young Theresa. On August 15, 1937, two months before her 15th birthday, Mother Magna received Theresa into the Congregation as a postulant. She would come to be known in religious life as Sister Mary Rosalie.

With novitiate behind her, August 1940 saw the newly professed Sister Rosalie making her way to Phoenix, Arizona, where she began her beloved 46-year teaching career that took her from Phoenix to Norwood, Miamisburg, Wapakoneta and Coldwater, Ohio. In 1958, Sister Rosalie traveled back to the West to teach for two years in Alameda, California, after which she landed in her beloved Ottoville, Ohio, where she

remained for 26 years until she retired from teaching. Now, retired from teaching did not mean retired from school for Sister Rosalie. She simply traveled from Ottoville about 15 miles east on SR 189 to St. Anthony School in Columbus Grove, Ohio, where she found a home for the next 14 years serving as a teacher aide in the morning and school secretary in the afternoon.

Sister Rosalie earned her teaching degree from the Athenaeum Teachers College in Cincinnati and her Master of Education from Xavier University in Cincinnati. She enjoyed much success in the classroom, winning the attention and the hearts of many 7- and 8-year-olds over the years. One former student from Ottoville, after seeing a picture of Sister Rosalie in a local newspaper, wrote the following: "So many memories flooded my mind, I just wanted you to know that my first grade experience at Ottoville was amazing because of you!" The Ottoville School District obviously shared these sentiments as they named Sister Rosalie "Teacher of the Year" in 1980.

Outside the classroom and in retirement, Sister Rosalie was not one to sit idle. She enjoyed several hobbies. She was an avid reader; a book was never far from her reach. She loved puzzles — jigsaw, crossword, word search, any type of puzzle! Her great love for the foreign missions inspired her hobby of "couponing!" Having learned about the cold hard cash that could be received for coupons, she spent hours each day collecting, cutting, packaging and mailing manufacturer coupons and receiving money that was sent to our Sisters for their work in the Chilean missions. Rosalie was also quite an artist; her letters were often adorned with little drawings or cutout characters from used greeting cards. Most likely, anyone who knew Sis-

ter Rosalie would have been delighted to have received one of her homemade greeting cards. She loved cutting up and recycling old cards. If she had not enjoyed education so much, she possibly could have worked for Hallmark in her retirement.

After moving to Dayton, Sister Rosalie continued to generously share her God-given gifts with others. She tutored at the Brunner Literacy Center, joined the choir, and participated fully in the life of the community and in the various activities offered here at Salem Heights. She was a faithful and welcome visitor to our Sisters in Emma Hall, a ministry she continued after she became a resident there herself.

In Sister Rosalie's file was a reflection handwritten by a Sister about Rosalie that speaks of the life we gather to celebrate today. She writes, "When I think of Sister Rosalie, the first image that comes to mind is a tiny person with a big heart and a big voice!"

On the day before Rosalie peacefully slipped into the loving embrace of her God, she looked so tiny as she laid in her bed, a peaceful expression on her face despite her labored breathing. I looked around the room; at the foot of her bed was a table with a library book, a pair of scissors, some meticulously cut out figures from old magazines and a word search puzzle book. Across the room was her latest jigsaw puzzle. I smiled to myself and quietly offered a prayer of thanksgiving for this tiny, caring, gentle woman, knowing in my heart that this angel would be going home very soon to lift her voice as she joined God's celestial choir.

Rest in Peace Rosalie!

— Sister Patty Kremer