



In Loving Memory

Sister M. Rosalind Santos

Sister M. Rosalind Santos, 84, died on Monday, September 10, 2018, at Our Lady of the Angels, Greenfield, Wisconsin. She was the oldest of 12 children born to Jesús and Rosario (Acosta) Santos of Dededo, Guam. On June 26, 1934, she was baptized and given the name Josephine Mae.

Josephine's early childhood was happy, healthy and wholesome. She had everything that she wished and desired. However, she would find herself in little predicaments from time to time. One early childhood memory she recalls in her autobiography is watching one of her family's hens interact with her chicks. She tells the story, "Once again a mother hen was feeding her ten little chicks. Out of curiosity and joy of holding a baby chick, I went straight to the mother hen and picked one little chick up. Did the mother hen run after me 'two-forty!' She scratched me so hard and I started crying. The next day, we had chicken soup."

Josephine enjoyed going to Sunday School with her sister Rose. She recalls in her autobiography, "The thing I liked about Sunday School was that they always gave us candy, ice cream, cakes and other sweets."

Josephine was in the first grade when World War II broke out and the Japanese invaded Guam. For two years, she attended a Japanese school and like many other children, was sent to pick produce or gather eggs.

After the war, Josephine attended a public school from first until fifth grade. In the afternoon, she would attend parochial classes. She enjoyed the classes very much. She recalls in her autobiography, "Every day before or after class, we would eat mangos, pickles or young coconuts with salt and pepper. One day I came home very late. The family was having supper already. My mother called me to eat supper, but I couldn't eat anything because I felt like vomiting. My mother was wondering what I ate for dinner. Then I told her about the salt and pepper party. My mother gave me a good scolding. After that, I gradually stopped the salt and pepper business."

School Sisters of Notre Dame came to Guam in 1949, and Josephine attended a Catholic school taught by SSNDs from sixth to eighth grade. During this time, she would also help tend her uncle's corn fields along with her sister, keeping chickens from digging up the rows of corn.

Josephine's first dream was to become a nurse. However, after the School Sisters of Notre Dame came to Guam, Josephine became interested in becoming a sister. She says in her autobiography, "What made me enter the convent I really didn't understand, even to this day yet. I just had the desire and attraction for the sisterhood. I suppose it's through the working of actual grace which drew me to the convent door." After the eighth grade, she entered the aspiranture in Yona, Guam, and remained there for three years. She remembers of her years in the aspiranture, "One thing that impressed me so much during those three years was the bond of love and charity. Love and charity can speak all kinds of languages and make all things easier. There is mutual understanding and sisterly love in a community."

Birth
June 11, 1934

Baptism
June 26, 1934

Profession
July 23, 1958

Death
September 10, 2018

Burial
Notre Dame of Elm Grove
Cemetery

*Precious and blessed is
the death of the faithful
before God... for
they die in union with
their dear Jesus, in the
grace of God, in peace.*

Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger
Foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame
Letter 11, September 10, 1831

continued

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In June 1955, Josephine left Guam for Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, where she attended St. Mary's Academy. After a year, she entered the candidature at the motherhouse in Milwaukee. She was received into the congregation in July 1957 and professed first vows in July 1958. Josephine was now known as Sister Mary Rosalind.

After first profession, Sister Rosalind was missioned as a seventh grade teacher at San Vincente School in Barrigada, Guam. She remained there until 1961 when she missioned to Mount Carmel School in Agat, Guam, as a second grade teacher. In 1969, she returned to San Vincente School in Barrigada, Guam, as a fourth grade teacher. During the summer from 1965 to 1970, she was engaged in catechetical work with first through 12th graders in Tinian on the Northern Marianas Islands.

Sister Rosalind attended the University of Guam where she graduated with a B.A. in Education in 1971. That summer, she was a substitute language arts teacher for seventh through 12th graders in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas. She was then missioned to St. Francis School in Yona, Guam, as a fifth grade teacher, where she remained for almost two years. During the summer of 1972, Sister Rosalind taught first communion and confirmation classes to students living on the Ulithi Atolls, the outer islands of Yap.

In 1973, Sister Rosalind, along with Sister Joelle Marie Aflague, opened a mission in Yap at St. Mary's School. She was the fifth grade teacher there until she was transferred back to St. Francis School in Yona, Guam, in 1976. She taught tenth grade at Mount Carmel School on the Northern Mariana island of Saipan beginning in 1981. During the summer of 1981, Sister Rosalind taught first and second graders as part of a catechetical assignment in Ebeye in the Marshall Islands. She returned to Guam in 1982, first teaching fourth grade at San Vincente School in Barrigada, and then second grade at St. Francis School in Yona.

Sister Rosalind applied for a position with the Agency for Human Resource Development (AHRD) in 1985. She worked with the AHRD for just over 10 years as a development worker before retiring in 1995. After retirement, Sister Rosalind was a community service worker for SSND in the Guam region.

From 1997 to 2004, Sister Rosalind cared for her ailing mother. After her mother died, Sister Rosalind served as a part-time teacher as part of SSND's Yap mission. She retired in 2006 to the Notre Dame Regional House in Talofoto, Guam, and came to Notre Dame of Elm Grove, Elm Grove, Wisconsin, in 2011, where she had been serving in prayer and presence.

During the time of professing first vows, Sister Rosalind said in her autobiography, "With [Our Lady's] help and the graces and blessings from her Divine Son, I'll try and follow her good example to become a true and faithful daughter of her Order." Throughout her life, Sister Rosalind was that true and faithful servant, inspiring those around her to live to their fullest potential and to see God in all things.

*This remembrance was compiled from
SSND archival information*