

In Loving Memory

Sister Roselle Zollar



Birth
May 1, 1931

Baptism
May 10, 1931

Profession
July 17, 1952

Death
November 12, 2019

Burial
Our Lady of Good Counsel
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

Sister Roselle Zollar, SSND, 88, died on Tuesday, November 12, 2019, in Notre Dame Health Care, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato, Minnesota. The fifth of eight children, she was born May 1, 1931 in Bismarck, North Dakota. At her baptism in St. Alexius Church in Bismarck, she was given the name Mary Ann. Her father, Louis, was from northern Minnesota and was a Soo Line depot agent. Her mother came with her family from Ukraine and settled in Wilton, North Dakota.

When Mary Ann was five, there was an opening at the depot in Grenville, South Dakota. Louis bid for the job because Grenville's St. Joseph parish had a Catholic grade and high school, taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Grenville was a Polish community, and Sister Roselle remembered that Sunday sermons were given in both Polish and English. In her later student years, she substituted for the sister organist during the summers. Music permeated the Zollar family. Sister Roselle commented, "At one time five of us were taking music lessons. Mom played the violin and Dad played the button accordion and mouth organ to accompany us. So many happy times were created in the family with songs and laughter."

In 1943, Mary Ann's oldest sister, Louise (the future Sister M. Luella), entered the SSND candidature in Mankato. Mary Ann knew that she, too, wanted to become a School Sister of Notre Dame, but didn't tell anyone at that time. In fact, she convinced others that she would be the last to go. Following graduation from St. Joseph High School in 1949, however, she did enter the SSND candidature. After recovering from severe homesickness, Mary Ann settled into the life of an SSND candidate. As a second year candidate, she taught second grade in Winona, Minnesota, for a few months until a need for an organist developed at All Saints, Madison Lake, Minnesota, where she finished the year. She was received into the novitiate in 1951 and given the name Sister Mary Roselle.

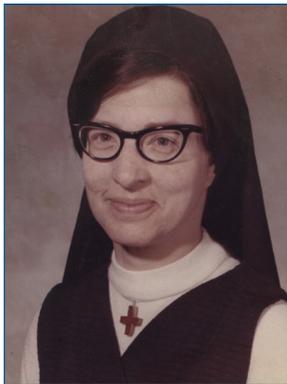
Following profession of vows in 1952, Sister Roselle began her teaching and parish music ministry at St. Mary, Bellechester, Minnesota, where she taught grades third, fourth, and fifth, played the organ and directed the choir. Subsequent teaching assignments, which always included church music, were in these Minnesota schools: St. Nicholas, New Market; St. Adalbert, Silver Lake (a Polish parish where her Grenville experiences proved especially valuable); Crucifixion, La Crescent; St. John the Baptist, Savage; St. Felix, Wabasha; West End Parochial, Duluth, and Cathedral High School, St. Cloud, where she chaired the religion department. In Iowa, she taught at St. Donatus School, St. Donatus; in South Dakota, she taught at her home parish of St. Joseph, Grenville, and at Sacred Heart, Eden. In North Dakota, she taught at St. Benedict, Strasburg; St. Anne, Bismarck; and in Washington at St. Mary, Chewelah. She earned both bachelors and master's degrees in biology, from Mount Mary College (now University) and the University of Wisconsin, Superior, respectively. She also earned a master's degree in religious studies from St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota. A creative teacher, she often found ways to incorporate music into her instruction, and composed music

continued

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School Sisters
of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world
through education

and lyrics that children could easily remember. She was proficient in piano, accordion, guitar, violin and melodica.

In 1981, her love for the rural area brought her to Taunton, a small town in southwestern Minnesota. Her initial position was pastoral minister and organist at SS. Cyril & Methodius parish and in the neighboring parish in St. Leo. She had originally planned to live in St. Leo, but when the Taunton parish priest left and was not replaced, she moved to the Taunton rectory. She coordinated the religious education program in both parishes and played organ for four masses each weekend. After a few years, she was hired to work exclusively in Taunton and, because of the increasing shortage of priests in rural areas, was appointed pastoral administrator in 1986. A local newspaper article described Sister Roselle's work, "Being a pastoral administrator entails jobs like typing the weekly bulletin; preparing for the liturgies; conducting services, Bible groups and meetings; correspondence of all events in the church and coordinating the religious education studies of the parish." The article continued, "Sister Roselle's work in the Taunton parish has been a joy to her. 'I've always felt free as an eagle to fly high doing the things I love in the liturgy and prayer services. When we are not hampered then we do our best and want to do more for God, others and society.' She said that her life as a religious sister has been full of variety and richly blessed." Sister Roselle ministered with the parishioners of Taunton for 23 years, retiring in 2003. An article published at the time of her retirement began, "She was the type of person who was there for the poor, never went anywhere without her famous fudge, had several talents and wouldn't hesitate to play a tune on the accordion." Sister Roselle received the Bishop's Medal for Service in 2002, when she celebrated her Golden Jubilee as a School Sister of Notre Dame.

Sister Roselle moved to Good Counsel for a year, and then responded to a need for a parish organist and parish visitor at St. Michael, Morgan, Minnesota, in 2004. She remained in Morgan until 2010, when she returned to Good Counsel. For as long as she was able, Sister Roselle continued to share her musical talents, often playing nonstop piano (without the benefit of sheet music) wherever she could find a piano. She enjoyed visiting sisters and guests alike and delighted in talking with children. Family visits were also very important to her.

The Funeral Liturgy with Father Eugene Stenzel as presider, was held November 19, in Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel. She is survived by sisters, Sister Luella, SSND, Helen Schmitt and Joyce Bischof; her brother, Jerry; nieces and nephews; and her sisters in community, the School Sisters of Notre Dame and SSND associates. She was preceded in death by her parents, Louis and Annie (Eshanko) Zollar, her sister Florence Johnson, and her brothers Lawrence and Dan.

By Sister Mary Kay Ash, SSND