



Eulogy of Sister Rosalie (Victor Ann) Glanz, BVM
Caritas Studio, March 4, 2021

Good morning. It is good to be together to celebrate the life of our Sister Rosalie Glanz.

Rosalie Glanz was born on July 10, 1928, in Milwaukee, the eldest child of Victor and Madeline Ann (Koenen) Glanz, and was joined later by her sister, Victoria.

Rosalie was close to her family and friends from a young age. She attended elementary and secondary public schools in Milwaukee. She related that her grandmother, who died when Rosalie was a sophomore, always wanted Rosalie and her sister, Vickie, to attend Catholic schools. That summer, even though she liked her high school and had wonderful friends, Rosalie desired to attend a Catholic school and her parents agreed. Rosalie became convinced that it was the heavenly intercession of her grandmother that made Grandma's wish come true.

Rosalie's mother suggested enrolling at Holy Angels Academy. When they went to Holy Angels to register, Sister Mary Michael Flynn, the principal, grilled Rosalie terribly, to the point that she doubted her decision to attend. However, after SM Michael was called out of the room, she returned with a changed demeanor. "I realized years later," commented Rosalie, "that [Sister Mary Michael] had somebody call my former school and found out that I wasn't dangerous."

Holy Angels was a good fit and all too soon, graduation was approaching. One of her BVM teachers asked Rosalie if she had considered attending Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa. After a college visit, she felt it was the right choice. At this point in her life, Rosalie had not considered a religious vocation and thought that the BVM habit was "God-awful ugly." However, during her four years at Clarke, a call to religious life crept into her mind and heart. "When I realized that I had a religious vocation, I chose the BVMs [because] they were a teaching order," she shared. Ever since Rosalie was a fourth grader, she wanted to become a teacher.

Rosalie graduated from Clarke in the spring of 1950 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish. She entered the BVM congregation on the following Sept. 8. She received the name Victor Ann upon her reception on March 19, 1951. She professed first vows on March 19, 1953, and lived 70 years as a BVM.

Rosalie ministered in secondary education for 34 years, mostly as a Spanish teacher. Her missions included Bellarmine High School in Burbank, Calif.; Mount Carmel Academy in Kansas City, Kan.; Salpointe High School in Tucson, Ariz.; O'Hara High School in Kansas City, Mo.; and Carmel High School in Mundelein, Ill.

Rosalie was a member of the first faculty at O'Hara High School, which was founded in 1965 as a co-institutional diocesan high school run by the Christian Brothers and the BVMs. She considered O'Hara to be her "most surprising and interesting" mission. During her time there, she taught Spanish, managed the bookstore, moderated the pep club, and oversaw the girls drill team that performed dance routines during halftime at the football games. Early each Sunday morning from mid-summer through the fall, she was in the bleachers with the sound system having practice.

Rosalie thought that the hardest part about teaching was “planning ahead.” Yet, she was well organized and had very high expectations. Based on comments from former students, Rosalie was an outstanding Spanish teacher. One Carmel graduate, upon seeing a photo of former Carmel faculty, responded, “I immediately looked for Sister Rosalie and there she [was] looking great! Thanks to [her] teaching, college Spanish was a breeze!” This student’s experience was not an isolated one. Several students replied that not only did Rosalie’s high school course lead to a successful study of Spanish in college but to a study semester abroad in a Spanish speaking country. Others commented that years later they could still hold their own in conversational Spanish.

Rosalie had a quiet personality and a twinkle in her eye. She made her choices with careful thought and decisiveness. She was a sensitive, deep-feeling individual. She had a compliant manner, but was always interested in new ideas and seeing how the church was open to new changes. She was articulate, an avid reader with a preference for spirituality and politics, and enjoyed engaging in good conversation.

Rosalie returned to Milwaukee when her mother’s health began to fail. At first, she worked as a Campaign Control Center liaison for the United Way of Greater Milwaukee. However, she soon became a full-time caregiver. While this was her greatest challenge, her love and devotion for her mother was evident. Rosalie was also dedicated to her sister and brother-in-law, Vickie and Herb, and their four children David, Dan, Michael, and Sue, and enjoyed gathering for family celebrations.

After her mother died, Rosalie volunteered with SET (Service/Empowerment/Transformation) Ministry [in Milwaukee], completing 10 years of steadfast service in its urban ministry. She also tutored at an adult learning center. Rosalie was a member of her parish adult choir, a bell choir, and served as a cantor.

One thing Rosalie did not enjoy was writing. She stated that, “I would rather do hard physical labor than put pen to paper.” However, she did enjoy participating in service projects at Mount Carmel. She sewed flowers for dresses made for girls in Ghana. She also read the newspaper aloud for the visually impaired and the recording was broadcasted through the Iowa Radio Reading Information Service (IRIS). Her reasons for participating in these projects were simple: “It makes me happy to know that little girls will enjoy wearing these dresses . . . It sounded like a nice charitable thing to do.”

Her attentiveness to fashion was singular. Rosalie was very attentive to her appearance—impeccably dressed, every hair in place, and always wore makeup. And that did not change in death. As one of her final wishes she wrote, “Please use makeup on me. I need rouge and lipstick and base.”

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven . . . Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.” (Matthew 5:3, 5). For Rosalie, “poor in spirit” was being satisfied and grateful, especially for her BVM community, being deeply sensitive to the needs of others and generous in sharing her time and talents. Rosalie had a true sense of self. She was a meek and humble person with a wonderful sense of humor.

With great gratitude, we celebrate Rosalie and her life of service and rejoice and that “indeed [her] reward [is] great in heaven.” (Matthew 5: 12). Rest in peace, Rosalie.