



In Loving Memory

Sister Rose Ann [Kenneth Marie] Boyle

Rose Ann, the 12th and youngest child of Mary and Francis Boyle, was born at Mercy Hospital in Burlington, Iowa on Nov. 28, 1927. She was welcomed into a family with four sisters and seven brothers. She was baptized at St. John, Burlington, on March 11, 1936.

Rose Ann attended Perkins Public School for two years and then transferred to St. John's Parochial School where she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She enrolled in the former St. Paul's High School and had the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary as her teachers.

In high school, she began thinking of becoming a religious but fought against the idea. During her senior year, she began to pray earnestly to know God's will. When Rose Ann told her parents that she wished to enter the convent, her mother was reluctant to give her consent while her father encouraged her.

Through prayer and determination, she was able to enter the SSND candidature at Sancta Maria in Ripa, St. Louis, on Aug. 28, 1946. After a year of college studies, she was missioned to teach third grade at St. Peter's Cathedral, Belleville, Illinois. She was received into the novitiate on Aug. 2, 1948 and given the religious name, Kenneth Marie. She later returned to her baptismal name. Profession of first vows was on Aug. 3, 1949 and final vows on Aug. 3, 1955.

For the next 30 years, Sister Rose Ann taught primary children at St. Peter Cathedral, Belleville, Illinois; Blessed Sacrament, Hannibal, Missouri; St. Anthony, Sullivan, Missouri; St. Hilary, Pico Rivera, California; and St. Engelbert, St. Louis, Missouri. In 1979, she was appointed the principal at St. Michael, Hastings, Nebraska. She held this position for 12 years. She returned to teaching for three more years at St. Thomas, St. Thomas, Missouri.

She received a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis in 1957 and a master's degree in elementary education from the University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri in 1974.

In 1994, Sister Rose Ann returned to her home town of Burlington, Iowa. She ministered at St. John's Extended Day Care for three years and worked with the elderly for three years at St. Francis Nursing Home. For six years, she cared for family members and then did volunteer ministry at St. John Baptist Parish and at a food pantry. In 2011, she was missioned to Anna House, The Sarah Community, in Bridgeton, Missouri. Sister Rose Ann, 88, died peacefully on Sunday morning, Sept. 2, 2016 at Anna House.

A wake/vigil was held at Anna House and Theresa Center on Sept. 6, 2016. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated the following morning with Rev. Edmond Fitzgibbon presiding. Her niece, Linda Boyle; her nephew, Dennis Boyle; and two cousins, John and Pat Boyle were present for the funeral services. Classmates, sisters who lived with her in community and SSNDs attended the services. She was buried in the Sancta Maria in Ripa cemetery.

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Birth
Nov. 28, 1927

Baptism
March 11, 1936

Profession
Aug. 3, 1949

Death
Sept. 2, 2016

Burial
Sancta Maria
in Ripa Cemetery
St. Louis, Missouri

*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.*

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She was preceded in death by her parents and all of her siblings: her sisters, Marcella Chubb, Mildred Whitehair, Mary Boyle and Mary Phyllis Boyle; her brothers, Manford, Patrick, Mark, Robert, William, Raymond and Thomas.

During her tenure as principal in Hastings, Sister Rose Ann was given a puppy as a Christmas present. “Little Bit” came to school with her and soon became a favorite of the children. The white toy poodle would join the children at recess or after school hours when they were waiting to be picked up by parents.

Although short and small in stature, Sister Rose Ann was tall in her largeness of heart for the children, her family members, the elderly and all whom she met. She was an excellent primary educator and taught responsibility and respect. She was an inspiration to the sisters with whom she lived as she juggled community and family demands during her years in Burlington. A generous, prayerful and joyful person, Sister Rose Ann was dedicated to the SSND community. She was also very devoted to her family and cared for several of them as they aged, especially her sister, Mary who was deaf and blind.

She enjoyed baking and making candy. While relaxing, she worked puzzles or watched television. During her retirement in Burlington, her welcoming personality was displayed in her volunteer service at the food pantry and in the parish. May she now be blessed as she is reunited with her family members and enters into her new life with her God.

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND

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