

Sister Rose Blum, FSPA, 82

Jan. 14, 1915 - Jan. 23, 1997

LA CROSSE, WI - Sister Rose (Benedette) Blum, FSPA, 82, died Jan. 23, 1997, at Villa St. Joseph, La Crosse, WI. She was in the sixty-first year of her religious profession.

Sister Rose was born to Benedict J. and Anna Marie (Schwartz) Blum Jan. 14, 1915, in Westphalia, into a family that would eventually include 14 children, five of whom entered religious life. Jan. 17, she was baptized at St. Boniface Church, Westphalia, where she was given the name Rose. She attended St. Boniface School staffed by the Franciscan Sisters of Milwaukee. She completed the eighth grade in 1928 and graduated from high school in 1932. After graduation from high school, she spent a year at home assisting her parents.

She entered St. Rose Convent Aug. 23, 1933. Rose was invested with the habit and given the name Sister Benedette Aug. 6, 1934. She pronounced first vows Aug. 5, 1936, and final vows Aug. 9, 1942.

In 1947, Sister Benedette received a bachelor's degree from Viterbo College with a major in English and minors in history and education. Entering the teaching profession, she taught elementary students for 30 years in Iowa, Idaho and Wisconsin. Teaching colleagues recall that Sister Benedette who later returned to her baptismal name, was a dedicated classroom teacher. After leaving the teaching profession, Sister Rose ministered as a nurse's aide and as a seamstress. She retired to St. Rose Convent in 1982 and to Villa St. Joseph in 1988.

Sister Rose was preceded in death by eleven siblings including Sister Hermanita Blum, FSPA, (1969), Sister Marie Ann Blum, FSPA, (1985), Sister Georgiana Blum, FSPA (1996) and Brother George Blum, SJ. She is survived by her Franciscan community including her niece, Sister Kathleen Kenkel FSPA, La Crosse, WI; a sister, Ms. Marie Blum; a brother, Vincent (Mary Ann) Blum; a sister-in-law, Mrs. Laurina Blum all of Harlan; a brother-in-law, Mr. Joseph Kenkel, Earling and nieces and nephews.

Reverend Thomas O'Neill, Viterbo College Chaplain, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 25, 1997, in Mary of the Angels Chapel. Burial was in Gate of Heaven Catholic Cemetery, La Crosse, WI.

