

Sister Rose Mary Colavito, SC

Entered eternal life on May 5, 2020

Sister Rose Mary Colavito died on May 5, 2020, at ninety-five years of age, seventy-three of which she spent as a Sister of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. Through a full life of prayer and devoted service, Sister Rose Mary lived out the ideals taught us by St. Vincent de Paul and Mother Mary Xavier. Her ministry took her to schools in New Jersey and as far away as Florida. Her concern for the most vulnerable of God's children prompted her to earn a Master's degree in Special Education. Sister Rose Mary then began her work with the Mount Carmel Guild in Jersey City, NJ as a Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant. She continued to work with special needs students at Rahway High School and presented workshops to other teachers to enhance their skills in working with students needing special help.



Always an active member of the Sisters of Charity, Sister Rose Mary participated in the post-Vatican renewal program of the community when changes were made to our lifestyle in order to more genuinely fulfill the words of the document "Gaudium et Spes:" "The hopes and fears, the joys and sorrows of the people of God are the hopes and fears, the joys and sorrows of the Church."

One of the ministries these words led Sister Rose Mary to embrace was that of service to prisoners serving terms in Delaney Hall in Newark, NJ. There she distributed religious reading and mementos to the men and women as she shared prayer and supportive presence. Sister Rose Mary continued her ministry to people in prison even after she retired to St. Ann Villa in 2010. She continued to send Holy Cards and other materials to offer comfort and hope to those sorely in need of reminders of sustaining presence in their lives.

Not content to use her bedroom as her center for concern for others, Sister Rose Mary left her room to spend hours each day in the Chapel praying to God whom she had served so well for so many years. She also spent many hours at the bedside of Sisters as they lay dying, offering them the comfort of her presence and prayers. As the regular deliverer of mail to the residents, she often provided the high point of the day for happy recipients.

Succumbing to the Covid-19 virus, Sister Rose Mary died after a short illness. Predeceased by her parents and siblings, she leaved behind a niece and three nephews, grateful men and women to whom she had ministered as well as the Sisters of Charity with whom she shared her long and fruitful life. Looking forward, she anticipated her new life with God whom she had loved and served for the long years of her life.

Sister Mary Canavan, SC