

Sister Roberta Meis, CSA

Sister Roberta (formerly Robert) Meis, CSA, 89, a resident at Nazareth Court, 375 Gillett Street, Fond du Lac, passed away June 12, 2009, at St. Francis Home. She was born October 3, 1919, in Severin, Kansas, a daughter of the late Philip and Pauline Koerner Meis. Sister Roberta professed vows in the Congregation of Saint Agnes on August 15, 1941.



One of five Meis sisters from Kansas to become a Sister of St. Agnes, Sister Roberta began her ministry in the congregation as a homemaker. She spent a short time as school secretary at St. Florian's in Milwaukee and then experienced a call to parish ministry. Many hours were spent taking courses that enriched her for this ministry to the homebound, nursing homes and hospital, serving the people of St. Patrick and St. Louis parishes in Fond du Lac. During these years she enjoyed playing guitar and was active in music ministry.

Sister Roberta grew up on a farm with her sister Edna, becoming the closest friends. Being the youngest of twelve children, the two of them became known to all as "Siamese Twins." Throughout the years Sister's loving, gentle spirit touched many and was grounded deeply in her love of God. Her dry but delightful sense of humor brought joy to all but most especially to the sisters with whom she lived.

Since 2000 Sister Roberta has lived her retirement years at Nazareth Court and Center where she began her volunteer ministry at Hospice Home of Hope, being present with and praying with those who were near death. Her faithfulness here in sun or rain, ice or snow was outstanding. Her dedication to the Charismatic Movement enriched her prayer life greatly over the years. Contemplative prayer also became central to her life and somehow she was able to share bits and pieces of her prayer life with others without forcing it upon them. Perhaps the best way to express her deep spirituality is to speak of her as a "gem" that sparkled brightly within her quiet way of living and being.

Survivors include her sister Edna Leiker of Burbank, California, many nieces and nephews, the members of the Congregation of St. Agnes with whom she lived and ministered, other relatives and friends.

Preceding her in death are four brothers, Alois, Robert, Father Flavian, O.F.M. Cap., and Leo; six sisters, Victoria, Tillie McBride, Sister Paulina, CSA, Sister Matilda, CSA, Sister Jane, CSA, and Sister Alice, CSA.

Visitation: Visitation will be held on Tuesday, June 16, from 10:00 a.m. until 1:15 p.m. at Nazareth Court and Center, 375 Gillett Street, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, where a prayer service will be held at 11:00 a.m.

Services: A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at St. Francis Home Chapel, 33 Everett Street, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Burial will be in the St. Joseph's Springs Cemetery, Fond du Lac.

Memorials may be directed to the Sisters of St. Agnes Development Office, 320 County Road K, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54937.

The Sisters of St. Agnes are grateful to the nurses and staffs at St. Francis Home and Nazareth Court and Center for their care for Sister Roberta over these past several years.