

## Sister Rita Little, CSA

Sister Rita Little, CSA, formerly Sister Mary Robert, died peacefully August 29, 2018, at St. Francis Home, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

Rita was born in West Allis, Wisconsin, on September 5, 1926, to Robert J. Little and Mary Olive Biersack Little. Her mother died early in Rita's life, leaving Robert with three girls under the age of five years. Rita always expressed gratitude to her aunt, uncle and their two girls who opened their home to Robert and his daughters. They thrived there, and the girls grew up as one close-knit family.

Rita entered St. Agnes Convent in 1941 as a high school student. She made her profession of vows in the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes as Sister Mary Robert on August 15, 1945. She received a BS in Education from Marian College of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and an MEd in Administration and Supervision from Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She kept current professionally through varied post-graduate courses.

Sister Rita spent the greater part of her life in the ministry of education: as a teacher in parish schools in Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin for 15 years; as a teaching principal in WI for 12 years; as school administrator in Kansas, New York, and Wisconsin for another 15 years. Wisconsin schools where Sister Rita served include: Brother Dutton, Beloit; Presentation, North Fond du Lac; St. Mary's and Sacred Heart, Fond du Lac; St. Luke, Two Rivers; Holy Trinity, Kewaskum; St. Mary Help of Christians, West Allis; and St. Florian, Milwaukee. Sister was also a member of the Marian College education department faculty for two years. Having served the congregation as local coordinator of St. Agnes Convent from 1990-1994, Sister Rita retired from formal roles in education. She then enjoyed her years as part of the Foster Grandparent Program at Evans School, Fond du Lac.

Sister Rita was preceded in death by her parents Robert J. Little and Mary Olive Biersack Little and by her sisters Margaret Thorsen, Beatrice Little, and Johanna Sem. She is survived by her sister Mary Ann (Marie) Neuwald, nieces, nephews, cousins and the Sisters of St. Agnes, with whom she lived, prayed and ministered.

A Prayer Service for Sister Rita Little will be held on September 6, 2018, at 11:00 a.m. in Nazareth Court and Center Chapel, 375 Gillett Street, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

A Mass of Christian Burial with cremated remains present will take place on September 6, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. in St. Francis Home Chapel, 33 Everett Street, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Father Ken Smits, Capuchin, will be the presider. Burial will follow at St. Joseph Springs Cemetery.

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

The Sisters of St. Agnes are grateful to the nurses and staff of Nazareth Court and Center/St. Francis Home for their care of Sister Rita in her last years and to the staff of Hospice Hope.

Zacherl Funeral Home is serving the Sisters of the Congregation of St. Agnes

