

# SISTER ROSEMARY LYNCH, OSF

Sister Rosemary Lynch, 93, passed away on January 9, 2011 in Las Vegas, Nevada, at the age of 93. She was born on March 18, 1917 in Phoenix, Arizona. She attended St. Mary's parish schools in Phoenix, and influenced by the Franciscan Friars decided to join the Sisters of St. Francis. She made her vows as a Franciscan Sister in 1934. For the first 26 years of her life as a Franciscan sister, she taught in and administered Catholic schools in New Jersey, California, and Montana.

Sister Rosemary's intellectual gifts and spiritual depth were recognized when, as a delegate to the General Meeting of her international community in Rome, she was elected to the General Council. She spent most of this time visiting many countries where the Sisters of her Congregation were in ministry. Her many experiences in these countries formed the backdrop for her later years. She saw first hand the devastation that poverty and war can inflict on people in many areas of the world, and this profoundly deepened her compassion and determination to help change the systems that created such problems.

Sister Rosemary returned to the United States in 1977, and with her faithful friend and companion, Sister Klaryta Antoszewska, joined a new community formed in Las Vegas by various Franciscan groups. Here she was active in various peace and justice organizations, co-founding the Nevada Desert Experience in the campaign to stop nuclear testing, and Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service in the mission of helping to create a less violent world. In 2004 Sister Rosemary she resigned from her staff position with Pace e Bene and became the first "Pace e Bene Elder," a role in which she continued to share her keen insights into the spiritual journey of creating a more peaceful world.

Sister Rosemary was highly regarded internationally as a speaker and leader on peace. She spoke eight languages, and often was called upon to offer her comments and wisdom to various groups in many different countries. She was an entertaining story-teller, poet, and a surprisingly adept joke-teller. She lived a very simple life, helping where she could, and enjoying the beauty of creation. She sought and saw the divine in each person she met, and thereby dissolved all barriers of opposition or animosity that could potentially stymie a genuine relationship. She was equally gracious to those who agreed with her and those who stood in opposition to the issues she supported. She walked almost every day, and it was on one of these walks that she was struck by a car backing out of a driveway. Her injuries resulted in her death. As her death became known, an outpouring of sympathy and grief has come from around the world. Her spirit and work continue on in the hopes and dreams of those who follow in her footsteps.

Rosemary was a constant companion and associate with Sister Klaryta in a ministry with refugees, where her uncommon grace and love welcomed refugees to Las Vegas, and her calm and loving demeanor eased their fears of a new beginning in a strange land. Although Sister Rosemary is gone, her loving spirit will continue to enlighten all who made her acquaintance.

Memorial gifts in honor of Sr Rosemary may be made to Franciscan Sisters Social Programs. These gifts will be used to support Sister Klaryta's refugee ministry, Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service, and Nevada Desert Experience. Contributions may be sent to Franciscan Sisters, 6517 Ruby Red Circle, Las Vegas NV 89108.

## A Celebration of Life

in Memory of Sister Rosemary Lynch OSF  
18 March 1917 – 9 January 2011



"We live in the precious memory  
Of this moment,  
Of this woman,  
Silent, courageous."

from the poem, "The Encounter"  
about Veronica and Jesus  
by Sister Rosemary Lynch

# A Celebration of Life

<b>Gathering</b>	Music from <i>Peace Grows</i> an anthology of music compiled by Sister Rosemary Lynch and Sister Mary Litell
<b>Words of Welcome</b>	<i>Peter Ediger and Fr Henry Salditos</i>
<b>Prayer</b>	<i>Sr Mary Litell OSF</i>
<b>Songs of Celebration</b>	“There’s a sweet, sweet spirit in this place” “Through it all” <i>St James Gospel Choir and Congregation</i>
<b>Reading from Hosea 2: 16,17</b>	<i>Ray Johnson</i>
<b>Song</b>	“Lo, how this Rose Full Blooming” <i>Choir and Congregation</i>
<b>Reading</b>	“Remembrance of a Life Blessed” from <i>I Still Have Hope</i> , a booklet of Sister Rosemary’s writings Read by <i>Anne Welsh</i>
<b>Selections of Music</b>	“Make Me a Channel of your Peace” “Let there be Peace on Earth” <i>St James Gospel Choir, Susan Braire, Director</i>
<b>Gospel Reading from Matthew 25</b>	<i>Sr Mary Litell OSF</i> <i>with the Congregation</i>
<b>Liturgist:</b>	When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory.
<b>Congregation:</b>	All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left.
<b>Liturgist:</b>	Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’
<b>Congregation:</b>	Then the righteous will answer him, Lord, “When did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothing? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?”
<b>Liturgist:</b>	The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, just as you did to the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.”

## Memories and reflections

### Reading

“My Best Dress”

Read by *Sr Megan Rice SHCJ*

### Reflections and Blessing

*Sr Patricia Rayburn OSF*

### Song of benediction

“Peace is Flowing Like a River”

*All are invited to the Fellowship Hall for light refreshments*

## Songs

### There’s a Sweet Sweet Spirit in this Place

There’s a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place and I know it is the Spirit of the Lord  
There are sweet expressions on each face and I know they feel the presence of the Lord  
Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly dove, stay right here with us, filling us with Your love  
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise  
Without a doubt we know that we’ll have been revived when we shall leave this place

### Through it All

I've had many tears and sorrows, I've had questions for tomorrow,  
There've been times I didn't know right from wrong:  
But in every situation God gave blessed consolation  
That my trials come to only make me strong.  
Through it all, through it all,  
I've learned to trust in Jesus, I've learned to trust in God;  
Through it all, through it all,  
I've learned to depend upon His Word.

### Lo, How This Rose Full Blooming

a song for Sister Rosemary, *by Peter Ediger*

Lo, how this Rose full blooming from desert seeds was sprung.  
Of Franciscan lineage coming as Sisters of old have sung.  
She came a flower bright, blessing our desert landscape,  
With peace and love and light.  
Francis and Clare foretold it, this truth we have in mind.  
With wonder we behold it, reverence for humankind  
To show God’s love for all of life, bringing us hope and vision  
To end our wars and strife.

### Peace is Flowing Like a River

Peace is flowing like a river, flowing out from you and me,  
Flowing out into the desert, setting all the captives free  
Hope is flowing like a river...  
Love is flowing like a river...