



Sister Antonia (Tonie) Rausch

April 16, 1933 - June 17, 2017

Sister Antonia (Tonie) Rausch, 84 year old resident of Little Falls, MN passed away Saturday, June 17, 2017 at St. Gabriel's Hospital in Little Falls, MN. A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at St. Francis Convent on Saturday, July 15 at 11 a.m. Friends may call at St. Francis Convent on Friday, July 14, from 4-8 p.m., with a Franciscan prayer service at 7 p.m. and from 8:30 a.m. until the time of the funeral on Saturday, at 11 a.m.

Margaret Antonia was born on Easter Sunday, April 16, 1933, in Ortonville, Minn. From her earliest days she was known as Tonie. She was the eleventh of 14 children born to the late Val and Katherine (Holthaus) Rausch. She attended the local public school where most of her classmates were Protestant. From that experience, Tonie learned to be open and respectful toward all religions.

Tonie loved to play school, teaching her younger sisters, nieces and nephews. The enjoyment of this early teaching experience stayed with her as she taught at all levels throughout her life. Tonie attended St. Francis High School in Little Falls, Minn. After graduation in 1951, she was accepted as a Franciscan Sister and given the name Sister Mary Karen. She was a Franciscan Sister for 65 years.

Her teaching experience began in the local diocesan grade schools. Sister

Karen spent quality years teaching American History and Art Studies at St. Francis High School. When the school closed, she opened the Office for Justice and Peace for the Franciscan Sisters, tasting the first challenges of many years of justice work in many different milieus. Moving on to a new mission in west Tennessee, Sister Tonie prepared herself in community organizing, applying it in the six counties in which she served. She also taught in the local Literacy Program as a Vista Volunteer.

In 1986, Sister Tonie was missioned to Tanzania in East Africa, where her efforts were in teaching and helping to set up and organize programs in three different areas: Chanjale Seminary in Samé diocese, Cheju Preparatory School on Zanzibar Island and Enkigarett School in a Maasai village north of Arusha.

In 2003, Sister Tonie returned to St. Cloud, Minnesota ready to utilize all her experiences in new ministries. She moved quickly into teaching English as a second language in the public school system, moving onward to founding a new organization, Hands across the World. In partnership with Brianda Cediél, the organization developed a unique program offering instruction in many fields, according to the needs of the students. The school flourishes with 60-100 adult students attending a variety of classes.

Sister Tonie was a down-to-earth person who had a reverent love for all of God's people, especially the poor and oppressed and reached out to them in whatever way she was able. She spent much energy searching for ways to create a more livable and peaceful environment for all creation, fulfilling her prophetic commitment on her entrance to the Franciscan Sisters, "I want to make the world a better place!"

Sister Tonie was preceded in death by her parents and her siblings; Armand, Eugene, Norbert, Rev. Ervin, Betty Ann, Severine, Florentine, Lorraine,

Herman and Jerome. Survivors include siblings; Sister Rose Mae, Josie (George), Paul (Liane); sisters-in-law: Jane, Harriet and Shanti; nieces and nephews and her Franciscan Community.

Donations to Franciscan Sisters Ministries preferred.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 14. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

St. Francis Convent
116 8th Avenue SE
Little Falls, MN 56345

Prayer Service

JUL 14. 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Francis Convent
116 8th Avenue SE
Little Falls, MN 56345

Visitation

JUL 15. 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Francis Convent
116 8th Avenue SE
Little Falls, MN 56345

Service

JUL 15. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Francis Convent
116 8th Avenue SE
Little Falls, MN 56345

Tribute Wall



“ *Sister Antonia (Tonie) Rausch*

January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Sister Antonia (Tonie) Rausch.*



July 11, 2017 at 11:28 PM



“ *Stan And Dee Wielinski lit a candle in memory of Sister Antonia (Tonie) Rausch*



Stan and Dee Wielinski - June 20, 2017 at 12:17 PM



“ *Rest In Peace Sr Tonie!*



Kristie - June 18, 2017 at 02:35 PM