

Sister's Death

During the last few weeks of Sister's life, she manifested her strong interior life. Frequently she prayed aloud, "Help, Saint Joseph," asking his assistance in her sufferings. Each time the Holy Name of Jesus was said, Sister slowly and devoutly bowed her head. She faithfully renewed her religious vows and though weak, her voice would grow stronger as she repeated, "I, Sister Mary Joseph, renew my vows and promise to Almighty God, in the presence of the Blessed Mary ever Virgin, St. Joseph, our Holy Father St. Francis de Sales, my Guardian Angel, and all the Saints, to live forever in obedience, chastity, and poverty according to the Rule of St. Augustine and the Constitutions of the Daughters of Mary, Mother of Our Savior."

On the afternoon of Thursday, March 9, 2023, while several of the Sisters and I were present, Sister Mary Joseph passed peacefully into eternity. For the next four days and nights, the Sisters kept prayerful vigil before her, praying the Rosary every hour for the repose of her soul.

The following Monday, a Solemn High Requiem Mass was offered. Sister Mary Joseph was buried in the cemetery at our Motherhouse next to her two religious Sisters who had predeceased her.



My Hand in His

All of us will greatly miss Sister. She was to me a Sister in religious life and a companion during life. We were friends before we entered the convent together. For over 40 years, we shared our joys and sorrows, our work, and our goals. After Sister died, I read some consoling words of St. Francis de Sales. He speaks of how precious real friendship is: "Precious because it comes from God, because it tends to God, because God is the link that binds you, because it will last forever in Him. Truly it is a blessed thing to love on earth as we hope to love in Heaven, and to begin that friendship here which is to endure forever there." All the Sisters were blessed to have her friendship on earth and we pray to continue it hereafter.



During her last illness, Sister Mary Joseph kept near her bed this picture of her Profession Day.

As Sister Mary Joseph was dying, the Sisters and I knelt beside her bed praying. I held her hand and thought of the words she so often repeated about Christ giving her strength in the midst of her sufferings: "My hand in His." Though we pray and ask your prayers for the repose of her soul, we have confidence that her hand is in His for all eternity.

In the Sacred Heart,

Mother Mary Bosco, F.M.
Mother Mary Bosco, F.M.

