

ROSEMARY MOODY R.S.C.J.
March 30, 1913 - January 25, 1991

When Sister Rosemary Moody joined the Oakwood Community in September, 1989, suffering had left its mark. These past months which were so difficult were borne with her usual radiant smile and greeting, "I love you."

Rosemary was born in Chicago on March 30, 1913. Her father was Frank Alexander Moody and her mother was Mabel Moxley Moody. She had two brothers Frank and Richard Moody. She is survived by a nephew Richard Moody and a great niece, Kathy Chuckas.

The Lord pursued Rosemary until she finally stayed at Kenwood on the third try. Entering on January 6, 1942, the love and concern of Mother Agnes Barry and finally Sister Marie Louise Schroen gave courage to say the final "yes, here I am" Her model was St. Peter and like him she was direct and generous to a fault:

From Kenwood she went to Hardey Prep in Chicago, where her enthusiasm and concern for the boys is still remembered as they returned with their families to see her.

Probation in Rome with Reverend Mother Zurstrassen gave her the name, LA VRAIE VIE, which she translated as "real life". So she returned to live it at Duchesne and Barat Colleges, teaching psychology and counseling the students.

Rosemary was among the first to go into the "Inner City" in Omaha to tutor and aid the minorities to find better jobs. This was "real life" and opened up a field of work in which she could follow her call to the "people", to help them with their problems of education, housing and jobs. She became probation officer of the juvenile court. Later in 1968 she became director of Head Start in Chicago, advising 5 county-based programs. This eventually led to Director of C.E.T.A., counseling the unemployed for job training. She surely knew how to relate kindly to "street people", to assist them, and to get them to turn their lives around.

She was one who could be called on for anything no matter how difficult the task. At one time she helped rescue a student who had left home and was involved with Hell's Angels. Rosemary went in search of the girl, went into the house, talked to the group and got the girl to come home with her.

It was Rosemary who had to handle the fear of all when a squirrel got into the chapel at Duchesne and was wild, running all over. She went out, got two bath towels and with one in each hand somehow got that squirrel out of the house.

When Marynook at Galesville opened as a Retreat Center she joined the team there and remained for almost ten years until illness brought her to Oakwood. Rosemary loved her work there and loved the staff. The beauty of this little town on the Mississippi was difficult to give up. There like St. Peter she could fish in the peace of the evening or meditate by the great river. But like Peter she had her cross of suffering to endure.

She loved and pondered this quote from St. John of the Cross: "In the evening of life you will be judged on love." We know that she who loved to say, "I love you", has been embraced by His Love. Rosemary, we miss you and we love you.

Work with the Urban Poor Omaha, 1966-1967

January 15, 1966 The Archbishop's Commission was organized at a meeting of the Sisters of Omaha under the direction of Sister Mary Adolarata O.S.M. to be known as the Sisters Urban Apostolate.

February 1966.

Mother Moody organized a unit of the U.A.S working with Catholic girls who are on probation with the Juvenile Court. The girls are assigned by the court to the Sisters. The girl comes to the convent for counseling at the times specified by the Sister. Over fifty girls have been helped. Family counseling is sometimes undertaken and one family has been brought back to the Church by this contact. The girls often continue to come for help after their period of probation is completed.

In February, the Job Corps Unit was also organized. Originally it was set up to have a monthly meeting with these girls who come from poverty areas and live in this residential setting while they are learning a skill to help them earn their living. A semi-religious service was conducted monthly for about 50 girls.

June 1966.

Five Job Corps enrollees were sent by the Job Corps to help in Project Upstart at Duchesne. Because of their potential in addition to their work in Upstart the girls were given some college prep work. Four of these girls are presently in college, one at Duchesne.

The Job Corps requested college prep work for nine girls the summer of 1967 and paid a teacher and aide to give this help. Two of this group have been accepted in college and the others plan to apply after they have their skill training completed.

February 1967, three nuns started going to the Job Corps two hours a week to visit with girls and counsel with them. From this a religious orientation hour was set up with each new group of enrollees. At this meeting one of Ours and a Protestant minister speak to the girls and help them locate the Church of their choice. The Job Corps then provides them transportation to church on Sundays. The Catholic girls are followed up by Ours. A Confirmation class will begin in the fall.

Sept. June '66-67

Hilltop Housing Project. An educational project undertaken three times a week in conjunction with other Sisters. There are 1400 poor children in the project.

Summer 1966

Project Upstart 45 children of the poverty area were brought to Duchesne for tutoring in Reading. Involved One nun, four alumnae, 5 Job Corps.

Summer 1967

Juvenile Court requested tutoring for 29 dropouts from school.

Involved three nuns, two alumnae, one student and nine Job Corps

December 1966

Mother Moody elected chairman of the Archbishop's Commission for the Sisters Urban Apostolate.

July 1967.

Mother Moody elected to Human Relations Board of the Archdiocese.

PROPOSAL FOR WORKING WITH THE POOR IN OMAHA, NEBRASKA

In the area a proposed there are one Catholic High School and two Catholic grade schools, four parishes. Only one community of Sisters live in the area. The area considered is known as Title I Area I.E. most of the families earn less than two thousand dollars a year. Community organizations known as community councils have been worked up by the Catholic Social Action Office with the aid of the Vista Volunteers. Homes in the area are old, some large and well built as it was one of the better neighborhoods .

It is proposed that a community of Ours live in a rented house or apartment in this area. That this community be supported the first year (about \$6000 for three) while survey and ground work is being done to investigate the educational needs of the area.

Some possibilities to be investigated that would be remunerative:

1. Funding a project with disadvantaged youth through U. S. government.
2. Work with Mothers who are on relief. A.D.C. mothers who are trying to get a high school certificate in order to obtain work to support their families. We are working with some of these now on a volunteer basis but there is a possibility of being paid by the County. under Title V.
3. A Day Care Center , to care for children whose mothers are working. There is a great need for this and government funds are available.
4. Counseling work at Social Settlement agencies...Neighborhood houses, Christ Child Centers..stipend possibilities.
5. Teaching at Sacred Heart High School...A Home Economics teacher is needed this year.
6. Salary for executive director of the Sisters Urban Apostolate?
7. The Teacher Corps would possibly accept a student with remuneration for special training...A Master's Degree as teacher.

From my experience there is a need to live in the area because this is where the poor of our city are and one community of nuns live in their midst. The Jesuits at Markoe House would be able to advise us as to location. We should expect to live there according to the economic standard of the area.

Where this experiment has been done on a summer basis..St.Louis summer 1966 the cost was \$3.75 per Jesuit per day. Father Cunningham S.J. figures Markoe House cost per person per day at \$5.