



Special Alumni E-Newsletter, September 14, 2022



Celebrating a Milestone Birthday with Sister Roseanne Murphy

*Educator. Nurse. Ph.D. World Traveler. Administrator.
Fundraiser. Lecturer. Trailblazer. Woman of Faith. Tour Guide.
Author.*

Sr. Roseanne Murphy, SNDdeN, has packed a lot into her 90 years, and we are delighted to have the opportunity to celebrate this milestone birthday at a special reception in her honor this Saturday.

We recently sat down with Sr. Roseanne to learn more about the remarkable person behind her many accomplishments.



What were your early days like?

I was born and raised in the Bay Area. In the early days, my twin sister, brother and my parents lived in two local hotels managed by my father, the President Hotel in Palo Alto and the Benjamin Franklin Hotel in San Mateo. There were no Catholic schools in Palo Alto at the time so we attended St. Joseph's in Menlo Park and later, St. Matthews, run by the Sisters of the Holy Cross. My father went into the Navy just before my sister and I were about to enter eighth grade so we started boarding school at what is now Notre Dame High School here in Belmont. All in all, I was blessed with a very happy childhood.

Did you always know that you would enter religious life?

My sister wanted to be a stewardess which at the time required a nursing degree, and I was always drawn to nursing so the two of us attended St. Joseph's College of Nursing in San Francisco. As graduation neared, my plans were fairly traditional - joining the Navy after earning my nursing degree, going to school on the G.I. bill, getting married and starting a family. God apparently had other plans for me - calling me to religious life while I was still in nursing school. That was it. Then I had to make the decision between a nursing or teaching order. Since I was always drawn to teaching and had grown up with the Sisters of Notre Dame, who were like family, I decided to go that route. And here I am, nearly 70 years later.

How did you become an author of two highly regarded books?

I gave a paper on Saint Julie for a conference in Namur, France in 1987. Afterwards I was asked to consider writing a book on her as the available literature at the time was written primarily for high school students. It took three years since I was still teaching and writing during the summer. It was grace for me, getting to know Saint Julie, and I came to love her even more. The reaction from the Sisters was wonderful; they loved the book and my story-telling writing style attracted the interest of the Provincial Team in Ohio, who then

asked me to write a book about the life of Sister Dorothy Stang. That was quite an honor. Visiting Brazil and standing on the spot where Dorothy was murdered was a profoundly moving experience.

What makes someone a good teacher?

In addition to mastering the subject content and absolutely loving what you're teaching, you have to love your students and want to see them grow. That said, teaching requires infinite patience and respect for your students. My teaching career has been sprinkled with students grappling with their religious identity and values. While it may not have always seemed like it at the time, helping people find their way back to God has been such a gift.

Which Hallmarks resonate for you?

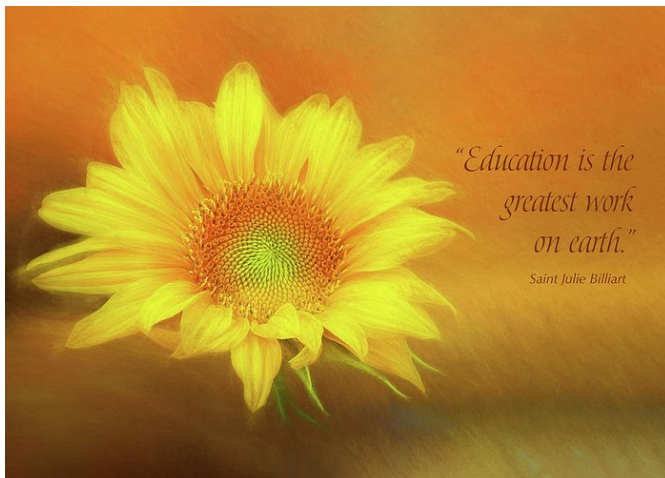
They are all so good and they all speak to me. That said, from the first Hallmark – *We proclaim by our lives even more than by our words that God is good* – the rest follow. The back of my cross is inscribed with the words, *How Good Is The Good God*. We are called upon to be sincerely forgiving, which takes courage and is not always easy.

What do you do for fun?

Right now I do a lot of reading, reflection and prayer. It's a very full life, for which I am most grateful.

Learn more about Sr. Roseanne's many accomplishments by [clicking here](#).

Share Your Favorite Sr. Roseanne Stories or Consider a Gift to the Sister Roseanne Murphy Endowed Scholarship Fund



We would love to get stories about Sr. Roseanne, along with anything else you would like to share about this wonderful educator. Please send your stories our way at alumni@ndnu.edu.

Looking for a way to honor Sr. Roseanne? Please consider a gift to the Sister Roseanne Murphy Endowed Scholarship at NDNU. Your tax-deductible gift will provide tuition support for students in our graduate programs. [Click here](#) to make a gift.

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