

## **Sister Catherine (Rosalia) Schmitz, FSPA**

Born on August 22, 1917, Sister Catherine was the fourth of ten children of Bernard and Elizabeth (Lechtenberg) Schmitz. They lived on a farm near Festina, Iowa. At her baptism she was given the name Catherine Anne Elizabeth. Catherine completed her elementary education at St. Mary's. Because her mother was not well and her older sisters had married, she remained at home the following year. Her mother's health improved allowing Catherine to enter St. Rose Convent on August 15 1933, where she completed her high school education.

Catherine received her habit on August 6, 1935, and was given the name Sister Rosalia. Later she returned to her baptismal name. She made profession of her first vows on August 5, 1937, and final vows on August 10, 1943.

Having earned a bachelor degree from Viterbo College with a major in History and a minor in Education and English, Sister Catherine ministered as an elementary teacher/principal for thirty-one years in parish schools in Iowa and Wisconsin. She attended Seattle University and earned a masters degree in religious education. From 1968-1988 she devoted herself to religious education and pastoral ministry at Immaculate Conception parish in Lansing, Iowa. She retired to Villa St. Joseph in 1998. She entered as a volunteer. However, shortly after she arrived there she fell, hitting her head. Sister Catherine suffered bleeding on the brain and was not expected to live. She had also been diagnosed with Paget's disease which is a bone disease and quite painful. These two conditions hampered her ability to do so much volunteer work. For several days before her death she was noticeably weaker and died Nov. 3, 2004, at the age of 87. She was in the sixty-eighth year of her religious life.



Sister Catherine (Rosalia) Schmitz FSPA on her 60th Anniversary

With her nieces

Alice Lukas, Sr. Catherine, Mary Jane Bonestroo & Adeline Busch

Fr. Herman Schmitz was Sister Catherine (Rosalia) Schmitz brother. Two of the ten children born to Bernard and Elizabeth (Lechtenberg) Schmitz



**OSSIAN, V**

**SISTER ROSALIA OBSERVES HER 25TH ANNIVERSARY**

Sister Mary Rosalia celebrated the 25th anniversary of her religious profession as a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration at LaCrosse, Wis., on Saturday in St. Rose convent.

She is the youngest daughter of the late Bernard and Elizabeth Schmitz. After attending St. Mary's grade school in Festina she entered St. Rose convent in August, 1932, making her profession Aug. 5, 1937.

She has two sisters: Mary (Mrs. Gust Weiling) of Calmar and Angela (Mrs. Marc Bengfort) of Mason City, and six brothers: the Rev. Herman A. Schmitz of Waukon, Minn. Nicholas of Cedar Rapids, Joseph of Cresco, Henry of Waucoma, Edmund of Festina and Leo of West Union.

Sister Rosalia taught in several grade schools in Wisconsin and Iowa and presently is principal of St. Elizabeth grade school at Harper, Iowa.

