



# *Sister Rose Vattilana, OSF*

*Professed 1955*

*"We should expect everything of everyone. We must dare to be love  
in a world that does not know how to love." ~ St. Charles de Foucauld*



Sr. Rose Vattilana lived a life of prayer and loving service. Born in St. Francis Hospital in Wilmington, Delaware, to Andrew and Elizabeth, Sr. Rose was the third of seven children. The Vattilanas were members of Holy Rosary Parish, and Rose was a graduate of Pierre S. duPont High School.

Sr. Rose was a very organized person, and she enjoyed helping others to stay organized. She honed her secretarial and accounting skills after high school, working as a cashier and secretary at Equitable Life Insurance Company and as a part-time secretary for the family business—Silverside Greenhouse and Mushroom Corporation. She also spent two years working in the billing department at Delaware Tool Steel Corporation. She entered the congregation in 1953, at the age of 22, and professed her first vows in 1955. Sr. Rose earned a B.S. in English from Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Sr. Rose spent her early years in the congregation teaching in Maryland and Delaware. Her first mission after profession was teaching second and third grades at St. Elizabeth's School in Baltimore, where she also put her secretarial skills to good use helping with general office work. Next, Sr. Rose taught second, third, and fourth grades at Our Lady of Lourdes School in Bethesda, and fifth grade at St. Bernadette's School in Silver Spring. After 14 years in Maryland, Sr. Rose returned to her home state of Delaware to teach fifth grade at St. Peter's School in New Castle and fifth and six grades at St. Ann's School in Wilmington.

After almost 20 years in elementary education, Sr. Rose pivoted to diocesan ministry, first working as a secretary in the Chancery Office for the Diocese of Wilmington for five years before moving to Pensacola, Florida, to work for the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee. Her first role was the Executive Secretary of the newly established Offices of Pro-Life Activities, Worship, and Family Life. She then became the Diocesan Director of the Office of Pro-Life Activities where among other things, she established the Project Rachel Post-Abortion Counseling and Reconciliation Programs. Following her years in Florida, Sr. Rose spent 21 years in Washington, D.C., working and volunteering for a number of organizations, putting her organizational, research, and secretarial skills to good use. In 2011, she returned once again to Delaware, where she volunteered for several years at Christiana Care Hospital in Wilmington and with the Talleyville Fire Company.

Sr. Rose's fastidious and meticulous nature was deeply ingrained in her life. She even kept detailed records about herself, noting the day, time, and location of her birth, as well as the name of the doctor who delivered her. This same careful attention to detail was reflected in her many talents. She had a natural affinity for handicrafts that required precision and patience, including crocheting, hand and machine embroidery, sewing, needlepoint, crewel work, rug hooking, knitting, and quilting. She also enjoyed artwork and found joy in designing and producing newsletters, graphics, and greeting cards.

When asked to reflect on her life as a Sister of St. Francis, Sr. Rose shared that she entered the congregation to deepen her life of prayer. Among her most cherished experiences were her two 40-day retreats. Rest now, dear sister, in the loving arms of our God.



*All services will be held in Our Lady of Angels Chapel in Aston on Thursday, April 23, 2026, and will be livestreamed.  
A Christian Wake Service will be held at 9:30 A.M., followed by a Funeral Liturgy at 11 A.M.*

