



## Sister Del Rey Kuhn, OSB

Sister Del Rey Kuhn, 89, died at Mother of God Monastery at 5:45 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, 2014.

Viola Kuhn was born on a farm in Glen Ullin, ND on March 10, 1925 to Peter and Celestine (Emineth) Kuhn. She was the oldest of nine children. In her own words she wrote, "I'm a home body and there's nothing to brag about but the wonders with which God has permeated my life." She loved nature, the flowers and trees, the animals on the farm, and watching the stars and the northern lights.

Viola attended a country school until the eighth grade when she transferred to Sacred Heart School in Glen Ullin. Following high school, she attended Mount Marty College in Yankton and graduated with a major in history and a minor in education. In 1966 she obtained an MBA at the University of Notre Dame.

Viola entered Sacred Heart Convent in Yankton in 1944. She was given the name Del Rey. Following her profession of Monastic Promises, she was sent to Selfridge, ND where she began her teaching career. In 1949 she spent the summer teaching at Stephan Indian Mission in SD. That same year, during her first home visit, she was asked to teach in Glen Ullin for one year. To Sister Del Rey's delight, her sister, Kathleen, was one of her students! She also taught in Aberdeen, Kranzburg and Pierre, SD and in Richardton, ND and York, NE.

In 1961, S. Del Rey became a founding member of Mother of God Monastery. This was an exciting adventure for her as was all of life. When anything was asked of S. Del Rey, she accepted it and gave all she had. She lived each day to its fullest.

In 1965, S. Del Rey was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. In spite of the daily challenges she faced, she continued her ministry in the classroom. In 1974 teaching became too stressful for her, and Del Rey returned to the monastery. She was determined to remain active and involved. She completed Clinical and Pastoral Education and ministered in pastoral care at St. Ann's Hospital, Watertown.

In 1982 S. Del Rey became a hospice volunteer, another highlight of her life. "There is an intimacy in working with the dying. One gets a glimpse into the very heart of life at that tender moment and hospice work became my favorite ministry."

Later, S. Del Rey lived and served at the Women's Resource Center. She wanted to prove she could care for herself and live a meaningful life despite her health challenges. She desired to work directly with the poor, those financially and spiritually poor. She unselfishly cared for them and gave them hope.

In 1997, S. Del Rey returned to the monastery where she continued to inspire everyone with her courage and patience. Though handicapped, she saw her illness as a blessing. She loved being with people. S. Del Rey was very creative, as demonstrated by her poetry, her artistic creations and her spiritual reflections.

Sister Del Rey is survived by two sisters, Alma Jean Swan of Box Elder, MT and Kathleen Olson of Tucson, AZ; two brothers, Pat (Callie) of Clackamas, OR and Richard of Billings, MT; numerous nieces and nephews and her Sisters of Mother of God Monastery. She was preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Irene, Gladys, Donna and brother, Victor.