



## Sister Agnes Vincent Rueshoff

Entered eternal life on December 19, 2016

Agnes, When you crossed the barren desert, you did not die of thirst. You wandered far in safety and you always knew the way. You taught philosophy to students and they always understood...blessed, blessed are you! There were countless works of charity, most never known by all, yet you tutored, taught, and ministered to creatures great and small.

I don't presume to have known all she loved in this life, but I was privileged to call her a dear friend and most wonderful traveling companion. My four sketchbooks are filled with sketches of the world we traveled with CSE students.

When I look at those sketches I sense her standing nearby regarding the wonders we hoped to share with our students... while she *patiently* waited for my pencil to finally stop so we could run (yes, run!) to catch the train.

Times were mostly filled with laughter and the re-telling of our adventures always heightened the humor. In Rhodes we booked two tours for subsequent days. We constantly exhorted the students to *never* be "Ugly Americans". The little tour bus was boarded by a "tour guide" who shouted English at us *slowly*. He asked us to regard the flowers growing in abundance at the roadside. "They are called the 'Roses of Rhodes', but they are **not** roses, they are hibiscus, or, as you would say, hibiscus." Next day, same bus, same tour guide, and same story, only this time we were all mouthing the story and choking back the laughter. It's no wonder she remembered the "roses of Rhodes story" since she actually grew hibiscus in the Shakespeare Greenhouse.

The Greenhouse and the Garden were as much a part of her as her study of philosophy. The students who faithfully accompanied her in the planting and weeding never seemed to tire or count it as a chore. Often followed by her beloved cats, she directed the heavier work which was accomplished by Russell and her colleagues at CSC (Members of the Biology department and especially Dr. George Sergiovanni). They planted trees and established new Shakespearean plots. It was because of her great love for the Shakespeare Garden that she led tours for various groups always quoting Shakespeare's references to the flowers found there.

Sister Agnes loved and was loved by her family, especially by her sisters, Elizabeth (Lovuolo), Mary Rueshoff and Anne (McQuillin); her brothers, Richard and John and her nieces and nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

She will be lovingly remembered by her College of Saint Elizabeth colleagues and students as well as by all Sisters of Charity, especially her Motherhouse community.

We wish you, Sister Agnes, everlasting PEACE!

Sister Anne Haarer