

Messages from the Shalem Community about Rose Mary's Death

❖ Our deep condolences for this loss. She has been inspiring many Koreans as well through her books. Many were touched by her teaching on how to live the life of contemplation and discernment, particularly through the translation of her book, *Discernment*. The translation was released January this year. We in Shalem Korea sincerely share our thanks to her and prayer for her soul with colleagues in Shalem. (Shalem Korea)

❖ Thank you for the notice of Rosemary's transition. She was a favorite teacher for me in SGP in 98-99 (Alan Bell)

❖ Thank you for sending this to me. May she rest in peace. When I lived in the Baltimore area, Rose Mary was my spiritual director. She suggested that I enroll in the Shalem program. (Virginia Spiegel)

❖ My sympathy to the staff. Rose Mary was a beautiful gifted spirit to so many. Holding all of you in God's love, comfort and peace. (Rosalind Powell)

❖ Rose Mary Dougherty has left a legacy for many. I never met her but I bought her books and CD for Group Spiritual Direction and used it. Along with many others I thank God for all she shared with the many! May she rest in eternal glory! (Anne Grant)

❖ Reading about Rose Mary's passing today brought back a flood of memories. Your words, "Her loving witness will surely live on in our own lives and hearts," prompted me to write the following. You may share it in any way you choose.

In 2006 I invited Rose Mary to come to Alaska to lead a silent retreat at our Stillpoint retreat center. She was delighted to have the opportunity to see Alaska from such a unique setting. During the retreat, one evening, I learned from my husband that Sarah Palin had just been nominated to be the first woman governor of Alaska. I rushed to the kitchen staff and urged them to not breathe a word of this news to the retreatants. Rose Mary asked me why this was so important. On the last day we broke our silence during lunch and someone commented, you know, we've been here in silence all this time and have no idea if anything newsworthy has occurred. I responded, "There is one thing you might like to know...Sarah Palin has been nominated for" What had been a quiet lunch burst into a table full of loud squealing women (like high school girls). My eyes met Rose Mary's, and I said, "That's why," and we smiled. (Jan Thurston)

❖ I am so sorry for your loss of Rose Mary Dougherty. I remember participating in a weekend workshop she gave a number of years ago at the Tatamagouche Education and Retreat Centre in Nova Scotia. Our Contemplative Pathways program (then called the Atlantic Jubilee Program in Spiritual Deepening and Spiritual Guidance) had invited her up to help deepen us in our contemplative practices and orientation. We were all enriched by the bounty of what she shared of her experience, practice and passion for the contemplative way. I especially remember her session of group spiritual direction. It gave me the confidence to start up several spiritual direction groups, one of which is still ongoing. I join my heartfelt prayers along with those of many others for the loss this means to you, her Shalem family in particular, as well as gratitude for all she gave to the world. With love and blessings, Charlotte Campbell, *Canada*

❖ Thank you for this beautiful remembrance of Rose Mary. I'm holding her close with love. (Carole Crumley)

❖ Sister Rose Mary was light for so many of us. The group work for spiritual direction was a great beginning for many with her. (Dr. Chris Bazemore)

❖ I am so terribly sorry to learn of Rose Mary's death. She was an extraordinary teacher, a great lover of God. I count myself so fortunate to have had her as a teacher in the Spiritual Guidance Program. I join you in your sorrow and in your gratitude for the gifts she so generously shared with us! (Christopher O'Rourke)

❖ So sorry to hear of Sister Rose Mary's passing! She has left us a wonderful legacy. (Sharon Smith Viles)

❖ I am so sorry to hear this. Rose Mary was on staff when I was in the program. I loved her wisdom and down to earth spirituality. May she Rest In Peace. (Mary Clark, CSJ)

❖ Thank you for this notification. I studied group spiritual direction with Sister Rose Mary and have used her book in my own spiritual direction groups. She was my first introduction to Shalem. I loved being in her quiet, spiritual, and centered presence. Deepest Condolences. May she rest in peace and rise in glory! (Kay Cook+)

❖ Hello dear ones,
On Facebook this winter Rose Mary responded to this photo a friend took out my kitchen window: "Somehow this photo moves me very deeply." Her life moved us all deeply. Sweet condolences to all. (Jeanie Sweeney)



❖Dear Friends at Shalem,

In 2006, Sr. Rose Mary led a retreat at Mercy Center Burlingame. I was given permission to record video of one of her talks and to share a five-minute segment on our website. The edited video—from a talk entitled, “Letting the Dying Teach Us How to Live”—is hosted here: <https://vimeo.com/8081096>. My condolences to Sr. Rose Mary’s friends and colleagues. I will share this news with the community at Mercy Center Burlingame. (Mark Werlin, Mercy Center Burlingame)

❖Sister Rosemary is a tremendous loss! May She Rest In Peace! (Sr. Annie Dougherty, OSF)

❖I was deeply saddened to read of Rose Mary's death. I know she was important to you as your friend. I am sending my condolences and blessings to you and everyone during this time of grieving. Blessed are those who mourn, Tina Brown-Eckart

❖Thanks for including me in this message. Please know how very sorry I am for your loss. I know that Rose Mary was a good friend to you! Since receiving this message, I've been holding Rose Mary in prayer ... and now with today's message, I see that she has passed. She accompanied so many on their final journey, I'm so glad that she experienced many accompanying her as she moved into Radiant Light who is Christ whom she loved deeply! I will continue to hold you and the grieving Shalem community in my prayer. May her passing bring peace to our earth! Blessings, peace in Christ, Martha Campbell

❖My sympathies to all who were blessed to know her. I didn't but certainly have gained great wisdom from those who did as well as reading her writings. Peace, Claudette Derdaele

❖Thank you for letting us know. I am saddened by her passing, grateful for her presence. (Bruce Pickle)

❖Holding the family of Rose Mary Dougherty and the Shalem community in the loving gaze of God. Peace, Dana Keener, Billings, Montana (graduate of the Spiritual Guidance Program)

❖Oooooohhhhh, I feel such a mixture of sadness and gratitude as I receive the news of Rose Mary's death. Only yesterday (Rose Mary's feast day), I met with a new (and somewhat overwhelmed by toothsome readings) Shalemite, soon to begin the SGP, and told her that Rose Mary would say to “just let it all wash over you.” There are so very many moments as a spiritual guide when Rose Mary's quiet centeredness and humility comfort me. If Rose Mary could admit falling asleep during a guidance meeting, what have I to fear? I give thanks to God for this lovely soul! You are all in my prayers. With a full heart, June Schulte

❖Condolences and Prayers to the family, friends, and advisees of this saint on Earth without earthly peer.... John in Africa

❖Cannot not reply. Thank you for letting us know. She—and all of us—are held in God's hands. We grieve but not as those without hope. (Catherine Powell)

❖I am a graduate of the Spiritual Guidance Program 92-94. Rose Mary was very involved in teaching our cohort along with Tilden and Jerry. She was my mentor and main contact with Shalem during that time. Very few days that go by that I do not recall her teachings. I am so grateful for her life and her wisdom, which continues to guide me. Bless us all in this time of

grieving and of love. (Susan Butler-Jones)

❖ My prayers with all. She was a light to untold numbers traveling along the contemplative path. Thankful for her gifts to community. With love, Jean Wright

❖ My sympathy at losing her. My share in the Joy of benefiting from her Wisdom. Blessings, Connie Ordower

❖ A profound loss for us all. Thank you for the beautiful tribute as you share this news. (Susan Walker, a student of Rose Mary)

❖ Thank you for letting us know. What a gift she was to us. Rest in peace, Rose Mary. (XO Sue & John Clark)

❖ A legacy for all of us to live into. (Patricia Richter)

❖ Thank you so much. Rose Mary was a gift to us all. (Kevin Dailey)

❖ My thoughts and prayers are especially with the Shalem staff these days. Here in MN I have been remembering this amazing woman who first taught me about group spiritual direction in 1998, was my mentor as I began my own groups, and then invited me to be a colleague on the staff of the facilitating group spiritual direction program for the five years or so of its duration.

Here's one special memory: In the fall of 2004 I was scheduled to do an intro to GSD at Sacred Ground in St. Paul for their monthly offering of continuing education for spiritual directors. This is a Tuesday morning event. On the weekend I got a call from Rose Mary. She had a ticket to come to Minnesota to do a day long something or other with the SSND community about an hour from where I live. They had had a death in that community and thought it best that she not come ... however, they said she could keep the ticket and do whatever she wished with it. She wondered if she could visit me, and she did! So—here I am prepared to do a two-hour “gig” on GSD when the “founder” is here. We actually had fun with it. I did the first hour while she explored the campus of St. Cate's, right next door. At the break I pointed the folks to the table of additional resources including RM's books. Then I announced that an additional resource would join us during the second hour. For those in the room who knew of her, there was such excitement and surprise—even a gasp or two! Of course, she added such depth and richness! Afterwards, RM and I went for lunch and then a visit to the Mall of America, as I recall. She was with me for a couple of days. From this and other occasions, I can honestly say she was a mentor and a friend.

And so we grieve and give thanks together! (Lois Lindbloom)

❖ I'm so sorry to hear about Rose Mary's death. She was a wonderful, spiritual, and impacting woman. My time with her will remain some of the most significant spiritually insightful of my life. In her presence, I felt absolutely in the presence of God's holiness. Let us pray for one another in our common grief. We prayed for her at Ascension last Sunday and are praying for her again this Sunday. Faithfully, Joan Beilstein

❖ I wanted to share this memory of Rose Mary with others: I am a graduate of the 1998 Winter spiritual direction class. (I think this is right.) At any rate, at our first residency at Bon Secours, in January, it came a big snow. Many of the participants were “sledding” on cafeteria trays down the large hill at the retreat center. I had my arm in a sling and could not participate. I was

standing next to Rose Mary who was wistfully watching and telling me all the reasons she shouldn't (couldn't) follow suit. I am a physician and there were a couple of nurses in our class. So, I encouraged her to go ahead, reminding her that she had her own medical team on site. I am happy to report that she boarded a tray and got at least halfway down the hill before she mired down. This is my favorite memory of Rose Mary. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen. (Linda Milholen+)

❖ **Psalm 23 @ 78**

An elder's paraphrase

LOVE is my companion,
I shall not want.

She invites me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside still waters;
She restores my soul
and leads me in right paths for Her sake and mine.

Even when we walk through dark valleys,
I will fear no evil or vulnerability,
for You are with me;
Your presence and Your care —
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the face of threats — from inside and out;
You anoint my whole being with blessing;
my cup overflows.

Surely grace and mercy
will follow us
always
and we will dwell in the home of LOVE
forever.

Lois Lindbloom, February 2019

❖ Thank you for sending the news of Rose Mary's death. She was such an inspiration during the residencies of the Spiritual Guidance Program of which I was a participant in the mid-1990s. My memories of her are fond and grateful. (Barbara Troxell)

❖ Rose Mary was on staff when I was in the Spiritual Guidance Program. She was the one who encouraged me to begin group spiritual direction here in Wheeling. We have been meeting monthly for close to 15 years now. Her gentle wisdom continues to guide us each time we meet. (Mary Clark, CSJ)

I am remembering more and more of the wisdom she quietly shared with so many of us in the beginning years of our ordained ministry. She certainly helped shape my life of action into a healthier balance with contemplation and was willing to simply be present as I continued to work on that. I give thanks for her presence along with other Shalem leaders. (Mary E. Kraus)

I first met RM at a retreat in DeWitt, MI, the winter of 1986. During the time, the spacecraft Explorer exploded—a terrible tragedy. RM responded in her usual calm, centered manner, helping the rest of us cope. I was part of the spiritual guidance program 1988-89 and she was my mentor, giving helpful, sometimes almost painfully honest, guidance. I most valued the “permission” she gave us—“do what seems called for,” etc. What a privilege to have known and been taught by such a wise, deeply holy, funny and playful, woman! I will never forget her. (Carol Ingells)

One particular memory I’ve carried with me is her wit and ready response. Our chairs were placed in our usual circle. As we were readying to begin, I was teased by a nearby classmate for being attached to a particular chair. Without missing a beat Rose Mary came to my defense: “And you seem awfully attached to her attachment.” (Shelly McGeary, 1999)

Rose Mary mentored me in the Spiritual Guidance program, and by God’s coincidence, her sister Mary Ellen has been my spiritual director for the last two years. So occasionally I was able to see Rose Mary after she came to Maria Health (10 minutes from my sister’s house and from where I grew up). Our paths crossed briefly about two weeks before she died, and I was shocked at how small she had become in such a short while. I did attend her funeral at Villa Maria and am grateful that the homily and Tilden’s eulogy are on the web site, because both were wonderful and my fading memory will be glad to revisit them. (Susan Burke)

My whole experience at Shalem, 1998-2000 was enriching for my life and my journey with the Holy in everything. I was part of the leadership team for the Atlantic Jubilee Program in Spiritual Guidance and Spiritual Deepening, based in Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia, for many years with Don MacDougall who was also a graduate of the Shalem guidance program. Rose Mary came to the Centre and gave leadership to a weekend program also. I continue to offer spiritual guidance and attempt to live my life close to the teachings of Shalem. Thank you and my continuing prayers for Shalem, (Shirley Childs)

The Snoopy slippers! (Nancy Jennings)