

Sister Ruth (Marlene) Fox was born January 24, 1936, at Stanley, ND, and enjoyed growing up on their family farm. Like her older sister and three brothers, she attended country school for eight years, then Van Hook Public High School. After two years she transferred to the Benedictine Sisters boarding school, Sacred Heart Academy, in Minot. After graduation in 1953, she entered the novitiate of Sacred Heart Convent and made her monastic profession a year later, at the age of 18. Since her mother and grandmother were both teachers, she was probably destined to enter this profession. The next years were spent alternating between teaching at St. Nicholas School, Garrison, and at Sacred Heart Academy, Minot, and going to college at St. Benedict's College, St. Joseph, MN, and Creighton University in Omaha, NE. In 1965, Sister Ruth was appointed formation director and in 1973, the Sisters elected her to the position of prioress, in which she served two four-year terms. Then a two-year sabbatical gave her the privilege of studying scripture and theology in Israel, Rome, and St. John's University in Collegeville, MN. In 1990, after several years as campus minister at Dickinson State University, Sister Ruth was elected president of the Federation of Saint Gertrude, an association of 18 monasteries of Benedictine women in the United States and Canada. This nine-year position gave her the opportunity for international travel including several trips to Rome. She conducted retreats in several Benedictine monasteries, published numerous articles on spirituality, and wrote a book on monastic leadership titled: *Wisdom Leadership*. From 2000 to 2005, she guided the ecumenical Benedictine Spirituality Center at our monastery, until she was again elected prioress of the monastery for six years. Sister Ruth compiled the history of our community

from 1910 to the present, played organ for daily monastic liturgies, oversaw the monastery archives, and assisted with housekeeping chores. Sr. Ruth was very involved in Benedictine life beyond the US. She was a member of the Monastic Interreligious Dialogue Board and spent three months in India on a monastic exchange program. She was a member of the American Benedictine Academy and its president from 1986 to 1999. What excited her most was her membership in the International Commission of Benedictine women. This was a worldwide endeavor of uniting Monastic women. We clearly remember when she came back from Rome and told us that she and a European Abbess went to the Congregation for Religious and were successful in their efforts to unite nuns and sisters of the monastic tradition into one worldwide network. In addition to religious life leaderships, she was involved in the broader Church. She was the first President of the Sisters Council of the Diocese of Bismarck, the Dickinson State University Committee, Diocese of Bismarck committee for ongoing education of the clergy, Diocese of Bismarck Pastoral Council. Although she did not consider herself an expert in any area, she had multitudinous interests. She liked to write, read, sew, play the organ, play Scrabble and go for walks. She had few dislikes, but among them playing bridge and any kind of sports ranked high. All in all, she said she had a wonderful, enriching life for which she was very grateful to God, family, community, and friends. If you would ask others to describe Sister Ruth, this is what you would hear: "wise and gracious woman", "such wisdom and humility", "a giant in my eye and I know others share this experience", "wonderful woman and leader". Due to failing health, Sister Ruth moved to St. Vincent's in Bismarck in the fall of 2022. Sister Ruth is survived by her religious community members and many nieces and nephews. Preceding her in death were her parents Albert and Ruth, sister Ina, and brothers Kendall, Bryce, and Galen.

Sister Ruth Fox

January 24, 1936 - September 13, 2023



*A
Non-traditional
Blessing*

May God bless you with **discontent** with easy answers, half truths, superficial relationships, so that you live from deep within your heart.

May God bless you with **anger** at injustice, oppression, abuse, and exploitation of people, so that you will work for justice, equality and peace.

May God bless you with **tears** to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that you will reach out your hand to comfort them and to change their pain to joy.

May God bless you with the **foolishness** to think you can make a difference in this world, so that you will do the things which others tell you cannot be done.

If you have the courage to accept these blessings, then God will also bless you with *happiness*

because you will know that you have made life better for others;

inner peace because you will have worked to secure an outer peace for others;

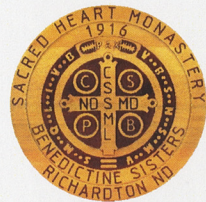
laughter because your heart will be light;

faithful friends because they will recognize your worth as a person.

These blessings are yours – not for the asking, but for the giving – from One who wants to be your companion, our God, who lives and reigns, forever and ever.

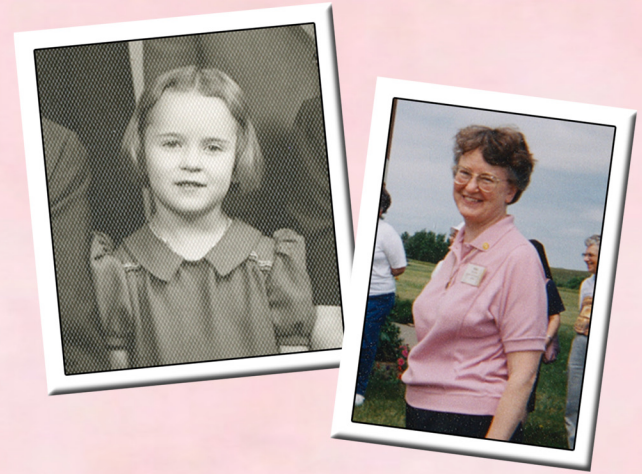
Amen.

Sister Ruth Fox, OSB



But as we progress
In the monastic life and in faith,
Our hearts will swell
With the unspeakable
sweetness of love,
Enabling us to race
Along the way of
God's commandments.
Then we will never depart
from his teaching
And we will persevere
in his doctrine
In the Monastery until death.
Likewise, we will participate
in the passion
Of Christ through patience
so as to deserve
To be companions
in his Kingdom.
Amen.

Prologue 49, 50
Holy Rule of St. Benedict



Sister Ruth Fox

FUNERAL MASS:

Monday, September 18, 2023 10:30 a.m.
Assumption Abbey
Richardton, North Dakota

CELEBRATING:

Father Valarian Oderamann OSB

INTERMENT:

Benedictine Sister's Cemetery
Richardton, North Dakota

ARRANGEMENTS BY:

Stevenson Funeral Home
Dickinson, North Dakota

