

The Rose Hawthorne Guild

Winter/Spring 2012

Rose Hawthorne
Foundress
of the
Dominican Sisters of
Hawthorne

FOUNDRESS FRIENDS IN HAWTHORNE Mother Mary Joseph, MM and Mother Mary Alphonsa, O.S.D.



**Mother Mary Joseph
(Mollie Rogers)
Foundress
of the
Maryknoll Sisters
of St. Dominic**

**For Easter
A Special
Triduum
of Masses
to be celebrated
in Rome**

**For the members
of the Guild.
Please send your
intentions before
March 31. See back
cover for instructions.**

During her collegiate years, Mollie Rogers witnessed the departure ceremony of a group of young protestant women from Smith College leaving to serve seven years in the foreign missions. Her heart was stirred. Was the Lord calling Catholic Women in America to spread God's love and message of salvation to all corners of the earth! Overwhelmed she walked away and entered the nearest Catholic Church to pray and she knew that somehow, someday she would do something for the missionary Church. A few years later she was encouraged to write to Father James A Walsh, director of the Propagation of the Faith in the Diocese of Boston. Father too burned with a desire to serve the missionary Church. When he met Mollie he knew it was Providence!

Sister Jeanne Marie, *Maryknoll's First Lady*. Dodd Mead & Co. NY 1964 pp 11-12

Mollie Rogers first came to Hawthorne in July 1912. She was prepared to stay two months offering her time working for the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America. It took knowledgeable hands to produce and distribute the society's publication *The Field Afar* with a circulation of 10,000. Mollie had both experience and the know how of common sense. In 1912 the society was early in its formation and Hawthorne, a small town, became as Father Walsh would comment later "Maryknoll's Bethlehem"

When Mollie arrived Rev. James A Walsh, Rev. Frederick Price and the three first "secretaries" were well acquainted with Mother Mary Alphonsa and Rosary Hill Home. The Tulph Cottage in January then the Rau house in April both very close to Rosary Hill served as first home then second home and offices respectively for the small nucleus of women who Mollie joined and led to become the Maryknoll Sisters.

We have recently installed three secretaries (women) who will visit you when they are set-

led in their work. You express the hope that we have come to stay. We like the looks of the country here and expect to settle not too far from these hills— unless something unforeseen turns up. Rev. Walsh to Mother Mary Alphonsa 1912

Concerned for this little band of women, Mother Alphonsa sent baskets of eggs and other treats down the hill. The basket would always return to Rosary Hill with a note of thanks.

We are enjoying your beautiful big eggs but you should not be so generous, we can't possibly eat a whole dozen eggs every single day—we shall be ashamed to meet your hens! Seriously we are most appreciative of your kindness.

Mary Augustine Dwyer to Mother Alphonsa 1912

Sister Jeanne Marie, MM in her Biography, *Maryknoll's First Lady*, relates that Mother Mary Alphonsa "was drawn to Mollie Rogers upon their first meeting;" and that "in their short acquaintance these two women developed a deep affection and reverence for each other."

Father Walsh and Mother Alphonsa were convinced that Our Lord was calling

Contact Us

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Guild**
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www.hawthorne-dominicans.org

LETTER FROM THE POSTULATOR OF THE CAUSE

Dear Guild Members,

Rose Hawthorne's life was never dull. Her parents, Nathaniel and Sophia, impressed upon her the true meaning of life and the need to live it with sincerity and care. The spiritual vision of the Protestant world they inhabited was focused on the goal of eternal life and the urgency of living each day in accord with God's will. Given her excitable disposition, Rose was very intense little girl. Her parents' spiritual vision heightened Rose's urgent sense of purpose wherever she found herself. When but twenty years old, and less than a year after her mother's death, Rose's progress from adolescence to young wife reveals the intensity of her nature. She could be impulsive about serious matters and yet was always searching out the deeper meaning of things.

A few years later, the birth of her son, Francie, and his tragic death at only four years of age, were so keenly felt by Rose that she was cast into deep emotional turmoil for long periods at a time. Hers was a nature easily riled, as she sought the purpose and meaning of life.

The decision to enter the Catholic Church, shared by her husband George, was an outward expression of her inner intensity. She was searching for substance and direction in life. The conversion of the Lathrops, members of the fashionable literary society of the day, caused a minor sensation in newspapers from Maine to California.

In our own time, Pope Benedict XVI frequently refers to the power of the Church's liturgy to beget the holiness of God within our minds and hearts. He reminds us that Christ instituted the sacraments for our salvation and purification. Rose Hawthorne is one example of a spirituality that was shaped by the sacramental and liturgical action of the Church.

Once a Catholic, Rose's restless nature found a home. The Mass, the sacraments and the rich devotional life of nineteenth century American Catholicism, provided a needed outlet for her religious aspirations and ideals. After the Mass itself, it was the treasury of vocal prayers, novenas and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament that touched Rose's heart and formed in her a tender devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the angels and the saints. It was in her Catholic identity that Rose became a mature, clearly directed woman for the rest of her life. Sorting out the conflicts and difficulties in her marriage and discerning God's call to serve the least of His creatures in the cancerous poor, became possible because she had finally 'come home' to the Church of Christ.

Both as Rose Hawthorne and as Mrs. George Lathrop, hers was a life always on the move. Whether in New England, Germany, England, or New York City, she tended to move from the home of one friend to another. Such prolonged 'home visits' were not unusual in nineteenth century upper class society, but George and Rose were particularly prone to a peripatetic existence.

Gradually, the sacramental life of the Church suggested another mode of existence for Rose. It was a life more focused and settled. Rose poured all of her energies into the service of the victims of terminal cancer. This and the formation of the Dominican Sisters, Servants of Relief, reversed all of her inclinations to be on the move. Restless Rose became the steady and firm Sister Mary Alphonsa. The sick and dying became her preoccupation and she rarely left her convent home once established at Rosary Hill at the end of the nineteenth century.

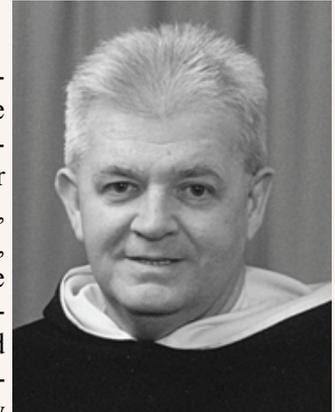
Her example is useful for modern Catholics who, like her, are searching for meaning and purpose. The restless in spirit those who hunger for a life of greater purpose will only be satisfied with the food of Christ's body and blood. Whether in the celebration of the Mass or adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, peace can only be found in the passion, death and resurrection of Christ, in his Paschal Mystery. This is the great truth discovered by Rose Hawthorne and it is our heritage as well.

We ask members of the Rose Hawthorne Guild to pray that we will be able to move towards a successful conclusion to the diocesan investigation into her life, virtue and works.

Devotedly yours in Christ

Fr. Gabriel B. O'Donnell, OP

You can check on already reported favors online at www.hawthorne-dominicans.org. Click the Rose Hawthorne Guild link to discover the graces others have reported.



Rev. Gabriel B. O'Donnell, O.P.,
Postulator for the Cause of
Rose Hawthorne

FOUNDRESS FRIENDS

Continued from page one

Mollie to lead the first Catholic Missionary Sisters founded in America. Mollie believed that her obligations to her family in Boston precluded her call to religious life and she must leave by September.

I gather from Father Walsh that it is very hard for your parents to give you up. The iron must go through your soul thus, but not for long. God is not like us, unable to help on one side without forgetting on the other, as you well know, and as we mortals so often do. All history of foundations and religious heart-break shows that the sorrow of the nun blossoms into the light of the Holy Ghost for the parents, before many days.

M. Alphonsa to Mollie Rogers Aug. 24, 1912

Mother

Alphonsa knew that Mollie's reticence had nothing to do with spiritual doubt or a lack of courage. She directly asked Mollie if her concern for her family was largely financial. When Mollie asserted this concern, Mother Alphonsa seemed elated because she knew how to help. By the summer of 1912 after many novenas and writing appeals Providence graced her Dominican community with adequate donations to purchase land and erect a new building in New York City for the cancerous poor. In gratitude she promised the Lord that she would make an offering of thanksgiving.

You may have heard from Father Walsh how it came about that I, a beggar too, came to see the wisdom of helping what I have always felt to be, the precious

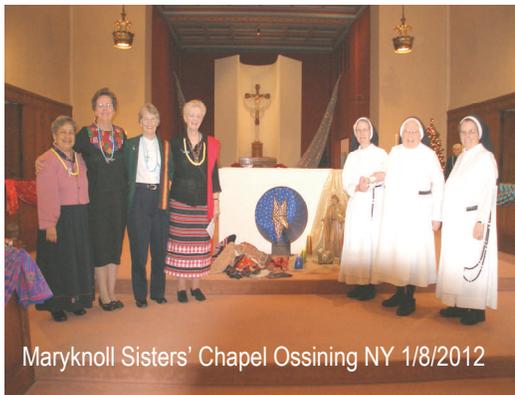
Community of women whom God and His Mother sent to Father Walsh. We sisters have been marvelously helped in the last year and a half and I wanted to make a thank-offering, which you know, is a very personal matter in our case since we Sisters and all our patients are included in it. Your clear and just mind will recognize the good sense in my desire to make your gifted and precious self the key to blessing for our-

Selves. M. Alphonsa to Mollie Rogers Aug. 24, 1912

By the fall of 1912 the mission society had shown promising growth. Father Walsh purchased land close to Hawthorne in Ossining NY. Close yet so far!

As soon as we are settled I shall take the first opportunity offered to find my way to Rosary Hill. . . You of course will never know how good you have been to us for a truly generous heart never counts its gift.....if you could peep into our hearts you would find how much they love you—how sorely grieved they are to go out from the shelter of your wing...

Mollie Rogers to M. Alphonsa Oct. 14, 1912



Maryknoll Sisters' Chapel Ossining NY 1/8/2012

REPORTED FAVORS ATTRIBUTED TO ROSE HAWHTORNE'S INTERCESSION

July 27, 2011 (email excerpts)

Dear Mother Mary Francis:

...My daughter Mia (Age 10) had an incurable inoperable brain tumor..Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma. The prognosis was one year with radiation therapy less than nine months without. Mia completed 30 rounds of radiation one year to date! She has had three MRI's since

that time, the brain is void of tumor....Mia is full of energy and life.....having a wonderful summer, playing softball, camping, going to parks, plays and the zoo. I am writing to thank the Dominican Hawthorne Sisters for praying to Mother Alphonsa for her intercession to cure Mia.Through prayer Mia has been given the gift of life and health.

Mia's Mom
Minneapolis, MN

September 30, 2011 (email excerpts)

Dear Sisters,

.my mother was diagnosed with stomach cancer.....she was operated on and I saw the massive tumor in a photo following the surgery. The doctors said they could not remove the tumor given its location to so many vital organs. After the shock wore off we took the medical advice for chemo and prayed our way through it all. Less than 9 months after given the grim diagnoses my mother is cancer free....She is off chemo and her scans have come back negative. My fellow parishioners are astounded by the reversal. I KNOW Rose Hawthorne interceded.

A loving daughter

Guild Membership and Spiritual Benefits

Many Catholics are still unaware of Rose Hawthorne and her influence as a spiritual intercessor, mentor and friend. Because she was a convert, wife, mother and religious founder, she serves as an example of Christian perfection and holiness to a wide range of people. As members of the Guild we should make her life and spiritual help known among family and friends. Please use the contact information on the back

of the newsletter to direct others to the Guild so that we can let more people know the good news of Mother Alphonsa's virtue, vision and mission. Don't forget, there are spiritual benefits attached to Guild membership. Not only is there a monthly Mass celebrated for Guild members and their families, but during the seasons of Christmas and Easter members are remembered at a novena of Masses offered for their intentions.



