



SISTER MICHAEL OF CHRIST THE KING
(Ada Marie Fox)

March 10, 1928-January 2, 2020

“Long, long have I walked
skin raw from the wind-blown sand
leaning into the sand blinded with the grit
I could walk backward and spare my eyes, but
I would no more know the way backwards or forwards
You are lamp for my feet.” (Sister Michael)

On Thursday afternoon, January 2nd Sr. Michael’s ‘long, long desert walk’ transitioned to eternity.

Our website begins: “

Sister Michael came on a later train (1956) but was a pivotal figure in what evolved as the Carmel of Reno. Under her leadership, which was a model of wisdom, deep holiness and a refreshing sense of humor, we transitioned from a traditional cloistered community into the Carmel of Reno you know today. Her early years in the monastery coincided with the Second Vatican Council and guided by its

principles she lifted its spirituality into the 20th century.

In the Carmel of the 1950’s and 60’s it was a novel experiment to have a work that supported the monastery. Sister Michael created our early Printshop and led the effort to consolidate our other works of the time (stuffing envelopes, vestments, baking hosts) into this single work of printing and led the conversion of the monastery basement as a viable working space with Offset Presses, an industrial Cutter and Darkroom. Concurrent with this project, she oversaw the 1970 renovation of the then Monastery Chapel into a more inclusive space where people outside the monastery might join us for worship. It was also novel at that time to emphasize education but Michael created our library and over a 20 year period had the vision to bring endless scholars from all over the world from the USF Summer School of Theology to the monastery for lectures.

Sister Michael was essentially an artist and remained active through her life designing cards, silk-screening originals and in later life crafting vases. Two of our best selling cards MC-101 -In Moments of Joy and MC-589-Jonah.....are her design.

The list of her achievements pales beside the spirit of kindness she breathed into the monastery which became a way of life for us all. She always wore her deep knowledge of the classics with a spirit of whimsy. A few years back, in a group effort to reflect on the scriptural passage of Christ’s Miracle at Cana, this was Michael’s offering:

THE DONKEY’S LAMENT

At the Wedding Feast of Cana (John 2: 1-11)

I hate weddings
“gaiety, song and dance,
merriment and all that sort of thing”
It goes on for days
Some times, if we’re lucky
They throw some extra hay.

This wedding was different though
I guess the folks were better off than most
They even had a chief steward.
He threw some apples, and pomegranates our way
I was looking for another handout
when I heard Mary tell her Son,
“They have no more wine”- you’d think after 3 days
They’d be satisfied with water,
And would you believe it-Jesus told the waiters
“To fill the water pots to the brim.”

The big steward tasted it and said
It was the best wine he’d ever had
And wondered why they kept the best for last.

I think Jesus worked a sign there!
He made a believer out of me and from what I gathered
all those disciples were shocked into belief too.
What a party that was!

Sister Michael is survived by her loving sisters of Reno Carmel, her brothers Dick, Kenny and Larry.