

Sr. Romaine of the Trinity, OCD (Romaine Welch)

Born January 4, 1927 - Professed May 7, 1950 - Entered Eternal Life December 21, 2010

I hope to die in peaceful and loving communion with all who have shared and given me life in Jesus. I desire ardently to live and love fully, to have died and risen through the nitty gritty daily rounds, to have openly wondered at and praised God in the beauty of Creation, in his dear people; to surrender in the total trust of a little child to Merciful Love and to draw with me your world in a free and grateful response to your great Love: all through the Power of your own Love, that we may all be one in you. My God, I seek your Face. My Three, my All!

This was found among Sr. Romaine's papers, with the request that it be opened after her death.

Sister Romaine Welch, OCD, of the Carmelite Monastery in Beacon, NY died Tuesday, December 21, 2010 at St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital of congestive heart failure complicated by pneumonia. She was 83 years old.

Born on January 4, 1927 in North Andover, MA, Sister Romaine was the daughter of Francis Welch and Kathleen (Harrington) Welch. Her three brothers, Francis, Joseph and Lawrence predeceased her.

Sister Romaine was a graduate of Regis College in Weston, MA where she majored in science.

Sister Romaine entered the Carmel of Concord, NH where she was professed on May 7, 1950. In 1964, she became a member of the Carmel of Barre, VT. Then in 2000, when the Carmels of Barre, VT, Saranac Lake, NY and Beacon, NY united to form a new Carmel, the Carmel of the Incarnation in Beacon, Sister Romaine was on hand as a vibrant member and a great supporter of community.

A gifted, trained and recognized artist who could say, "Beauty is my way to God," Sister developed and shared her artistic gifts with her community and beyond. The logo which she created for CCA is well known and treasured.

Theologically astute, Sister Romaine, as a lover of the Eucharist, attended the Eucharistic sacrifice well beyond her physical ability to do so, for she understood its centrality.

Obvious too, was Sister Romaine's genuine love of the sisters as well as her warm and welcoming ways with her personal friends and the friends of the community.

Sister Romaine is survived by her two sisters-in-law, Barbara and Dorothy, and by several nieces and nephews.

Three of her nieces, Mary and Romaine Welch and Carolyn Shulman were able to come for Romaine's Wake and Wake service held at the monastery on Wednesday December 29.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Rev. David Nolan at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, December 30 at the Monastery. Burial was in St. Joachim Cemetery, Beacon, NY

Her sisters in community found particular meaning in the First Mass reading on December 21. These lines from the Song of Songs: *"Hark! my lover-here he comes.....Arise, my beloved, my beautiful one, and come!..."* seemed meant for Romaine. She died that same day. While Romaine is greatly missed, the assurance that her joy is now complete is a source of comfort and joy to her community.