



Sister Rosaria Fiala

February 6, 2010

Sister Mary Rosaria of the Holy Mother of God, Poor Clare Nun, passed into eternal life at 9:30 AM on February 6, 2010 while the Sisters of her monastic community were gathered around her bedside at the Bethlehem Monastery of Poor Clares in Barhamsville, VA and after receiving the Last Rites of the Roman Catholic Church. Sister Mary Rosaria served the community as their Abbess from 1974 until 1986, and so is affectionately known as “Mother Rosaria”. She was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota on July 28, 1927 to Frank and Margaret Fiala and received her higher education at St. Catherine’s College and St. Mary’s Hospital Nursing School. Soon after graduation, she entered the Poor Clares in Roswell, New Mexico, on January 16, 1951, making her First Profession of Vows on January 9, 1953 and Perpetual Vows on January 7, 1956. Mother Rosaria came to Newport News, Virginia in 1971 where the Barhamsville Monastery was then located. In addition to the office of Abbess, she also served the community as Vicaress, Councilor, Infirmarian and Seamstress. She is preceded in death by her parents and survived by the Sisters of her community. Visitors may view the body at the monastery chapel from 1:30 to 3PM on Monday, February 8. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 3PM on the same day, presided over by the Most Rev. Walter F. Sullivan, retired Bishop of Richmond. Burial will take place in the nun’s cemetery within the monastic enclosure.