

# About Sister Rose

Rose Tillemans was born in Minnesota in 1923, graduated from the College of St. Catherine in 1945 and became a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet. Rose worked as a teacher and librarian for 24 years and then worked at the CSJ ministry called the Free Store in Minneapolis for 10 years (1974-1984).

In October 1985, with the approval and support of her CSJ leaders and friends and family, she founded Peace House Community in an old storefront building on Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis. Sister Rose lived in the neighborhood and loved all the people. She was a writer and a poet and blessed everyone she met with her wonderful gift of humor.

In her lifetime, Rose published two books: *Savoring Grace, A Year at Peace House* and *I'm Still Dancing: Praying Through Good Days and Bad*. *Savoring Grace* is a journal about the struggles and joys of a year at Peace House. *I'm Still Dancing* is a book of whimsical and upbeat prayers expressing faith in the God of quiet gifts and of refreshment, of laughter and justice, of refuge and of joy.

For Rose, no matter what obstacles, setbacks and down days you were facing, God was with you inviting you to join the sacred dance of life - today and for the rest of your life. Rose also published several chapbooks of poems and prayers and was a prolific writer of articles and letters about women in the Catholic Church and peace.

Sister Rose Tillemans died on July 5, 2002 at the age of 79. She was an amazing woman who helped anyone and everyone around her. She lives on every day through the Peace House Community.

A poem by Sister Rose -

*This the gift to recognize the gifts that you prize  
And to know you yourself are a gift on the rise  
If people look sideways at you're all about  
Turn, turn, turn and shout, shout shout.  
God knows the GIFT that you IS  
Even on the days when you don't pass the quiz  
And know you are a star midst the galaxies above  
Or even a meteor proclaiming your love*

*This the gift to rebel, this the gift to dissent  
When things aren't going the way they should've went  
And if you're rocking a boat or a fort  
Rejoice in your cause or any support.  
Speak out the truth in your heart  
Be glad for this gift even tho' you fall apart  
Dance when you win and dance when you lose  
Even if you must buy a new pair of shoes.*