

Mourning and Loss (December 2017)

Mary-Lou Collins

Mother Rosalie,

You know all about the pain of loss. Your husband died an untimely death; some of your children died when they were very young. We also know about this pain in the death of elderly parents, broken marriages and debilitating effects of a chronic illness.

We both know that faith does not shield us from the hardships of life, but it does gift us with the certainty of God's presence to lift us up from despair.

Mother Rosalie, help us to learn from your example.

In faith, audacity, and hope you transformed the pain of many losses into something life-giving and positive: the creation of the Misericordia Sisters Community.

Mother Rosalie, your losses were significant, but that did not prevent you from extending a hand of mercy to those in need. May our hands give mercy to those who have lost part of their identity, like the immigrants new to Canada.

Help us to understand that as we reach out to others who are suffering, it will help to alleviate our suffering. Help us to see beyond the raw emotion of our pain, to the promise of resurrection.