

Bruna Rita Cerri Odello

1927 – 2020

VOLUNTEER, PHOTOGRAPHER, TOUR GUIDE

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Born in 1927 in the little town of Morbegno, Italy, to Mario and Rita Cerri, Brunna emigrated with her family to Castroville, California, in 1930 when she was just three years old. As an only child growing up on an artichoke ranch with no other children nearby, Brunna loved to explore the world around her--a love that she carried throughout her life. Brunna lived in Castroville until she met the love of her life in 1946, Emilio Odello. Brunna and Emilio were married in 1947 and settled on an artichoke ranch in Carmel, which later

became the Odello Family artichoke ranch. On the "Ranch" they raised their two daughters, Pam and Carla.



Girl Scout leader.

Brunna loved her family and was a devoted wife and mother. As the girls grew up, Brunna was a Brownie and then Girl Scout leader, and she later served as the coordinator of the Junior Mints at the old Carmel Hospital. She also served as

president of the Junipero Serra School Mothers' Club,



Wedding day, 1947.

where she made lifelong friendships. She later served for a number of years on the Junipero Serra school board.

Bruna's greatest joy came from sharing and living her faith. Always involved in parish activities, she became even more immersed in parish life after the death of her beloved husband in 1974. She was the chairman or co-chairman of the annual Carmel Mission Fiesta for 37 years; a president of the Altar Society; a Eucharistic minister, and a member of the Legion of Mary. She was also a Faith Formation



Faith Formation class.

teacher to grade school children for 57 years teaching multiple generations of the same families, and it brought her great fulfillment to be a part of so many children's spiritual lives.

One of Brunna's true passions was helping others, and she was dedicated to serving her community.

She organized a local Artists' Tour for the Monterey Museum of Art, worked on Clint



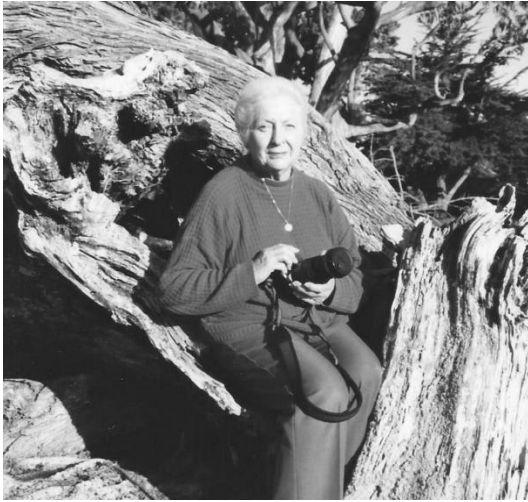
Crosby volunteers.

Eastwood's campaign for mayor of Carmel and volunteered on the Hospitality Committee of the Bing Crosby Golf Tournament for over 30 years. The cause nearest to her heart was Gateway Center, where she served



Clint's campaign.

on the board for many years. Her dedication to these local causes was instrumental to her being named Woman of the Year by the local Quota Club in 1984 and honored by the Italian Heritage Society in 2006. In 2009 she was also honored by the Monterey County Commission on Women as one of the Outstanding Women of Monterey County.

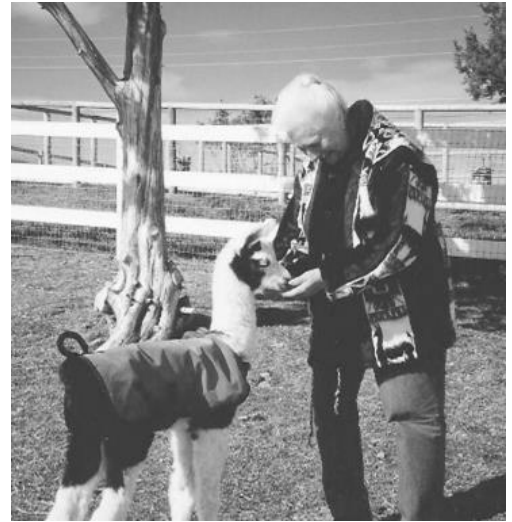


Ready to capture the glory of God.

Bruna always pointed out the beauty in the world around her, and in her later years she began to capture the wonders of God's creation with her camera as an avid photographer. Over the years she took tens of thousands of pictures of all kinds of events, people, landscapes, and animals (especially her llamas); she would often turn these photographs into cards and albums, which she loved to give to friends and family. Bruna considered it a blessing to call beautiful Carmel her home, and her love of photography and her surroundings culminated in a book of photographs, *Blessed*, in 2012.



Llama mama.



With a young llama.

Bruna lived an incredibly full life.



One of her tour groups in Paris.

She organized many religious trips to Europe and the Holy Land and Morocco through the Carmel Mission parish, and those travels took her all over the world.



Left: Caesarea, Israel.

Right: Shalom Jerusalem.



Left: Going to ride the camel.

Right: West Bank, Israel.





The Glory of God, Half Dome.

She was a stranger to no one and could often be found chauffeuring international tourists around her beloved Monterey Peninsula or sharing a cup of coffee with a new friend. She was known for her stories, her generous spirit and her love for everything, everywhere and everyone.

Although surgery and then her diagnosis of congestive heart failure in 2009 would ultimately rob Bruna of her short-term memory and greatly affect her activities and daily life, she accepted and dealt with this very difficult cross as she did everything--with grace, dignity, strength, and trust in God.

Bruna Rita Odello passed away on September 7, 2020, at her home in Carmel, California. Bruna was a strong, passionate woman with a definite *joie de vivre*, and she is missed by her family and the many people whose lives she touched in her 93 years on this earth.



Yes !

**Some of Bruna's Memorable Sayings
which her daughters called "Momisms"**

Her purpose in life was to share, inspire, encourage and teach.

Trust in God.

Whatever you do, always do your best. If you have done your best, no one can ask any more.

Life by the mile is a trial, life by the yard is hard, but life by the inch is a cinch!

If it's wrong and everybody does it, it's still wrong!

To those to whom much is given, much is expected.

Don't hide your light under a bushel basket.

If things are tough, be grateful. It could be worse.

When you're having a tough time, offer it up (to God) or you won't get credit for it.

God's not going to give me any credit for this, because I'm having too much fun!

All for the glory of God!

Onward and upward! Never give up!

I complained because I had no shoes, until I met a man with no feet...

If at once you don't succeed, try, try again.

ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY HONOREE 2006