

January 13, 1997

Dear Sisters:

"To do Your Will, O Lord, has been my delight."

Sister Mary Eva Geiskopf died Thursday morning, 10:05, January 9, 1997. She had been failing for a few months. Gradually her need for oxygen became more frequent. Her breathing was difficult at times. Sisters were taking turns sitting with her two nights before her death. Sisters Callista Ley and Josephine Konrad were with her the morning she peacefully slipped into eternal life.

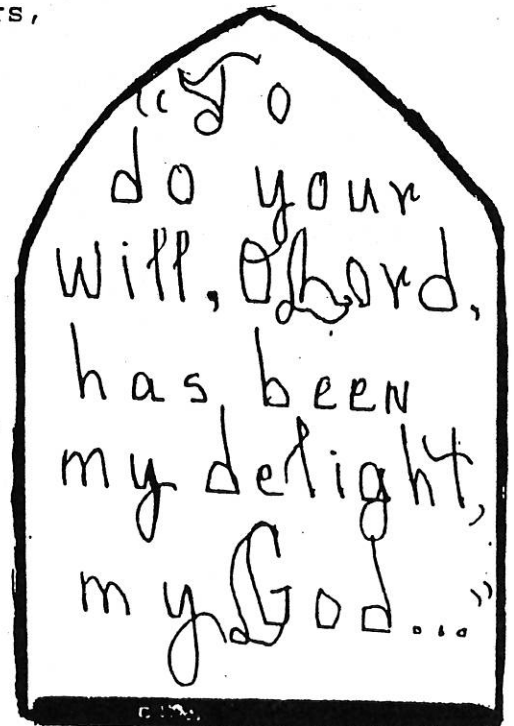
Sister Mary Eva was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to Francis J. and Elizabeth (Schmidt) Geiskopf, April 10, 1910. Her parents and her brother, Rev. Edward F. Geiskopf are deceased. Sister Victoria Grabler of Victory Noll is a cousin.

Sister Mary Eva entered Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters congregation from St. Elizabeth's parish in Milwaukee September 20, 1932. She professed first vows at Victory Noll September 8, 1935. She had been stationed in Holman, New Mexico; Goshen, Gary, East Chicago and South Bend, Indiana; Ida, Michigan; Richmond, Kentucky, Flat River, Missouri and San Angelo, Texas.

During these years of ministry Sister was also preparing herself through studies in liturgy, liturgical music, theology, scripture and sociology "to do Your Will, O Lord." Her ministries were catechetics and social work in parishes, teaching novices liturgical music at Victory Noll and diocesan director of religious education. Through her ministering these years she had been invited to be a member of National Conference of Diocesan Directors, Church and Society of Texas Conference of Churches, Texas Catholic Conference and Diocesan Liturgical Commission. She directed the religious education conventions in San Angelo.

Sister Mary Eva was recognized while in San Angelo with the highest award in The Catholic Church by Pope John Paul II "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice."

It is evident Sister Mary Eva had taken advantage of her gifts and opportunities to make a better road for others from a few words to Sister the day she was buried:



"I still remember the warmth, the joy, the WELCOME we all received from the Victory Noll Sisters in that year in Huntington. And YOU, Sister Mary Eva, were one of those 'madrecitas' we met and began a beautiful relationship here in Victory Noll. My mother was so happy and impressed with you because she could speak to you, in her native language, German, and in her naturalized language, Spanish. That meant a lot to her and to me. Due to the fact that we were recent refugees from Cuba, we were feeling alone, lost and betrayed. We were having many difficulties with the language, English, and in the condition we had to leave our country and my father.

"I will miss you, Mary Eva, and it is my tribute and privilege to say out loud to YOU, 'Vaya con Dios and We love you'."
Gisela Feil

Sister Evelyn Marie Davis had arranged the memorial board as she usually does with an interesting variety of pictures and symbols. The image on the front of this letter was copied from one of them.

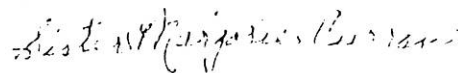
Rosary was prayed in the chapel Friday afternoon. The wake service was celebrated Friday evening. Our Fort Wayne Sisters: Rita Musante, Eva Maria Sanchez, Angeline Walczyk, Martha Wordeman and Judy Turnock as well as Clara Evilisier and Gisela Feil were present for services Friday and/or Saturday. Sisters and guests recalled Sister Mary Eva's zeal, spirit of celebration and kindness.

Father Fahey offered the Mass of the Resurrection Saturday morning. It was a beautiful liturgy planned by Sister Mary Eva a few days before. She had asked for a symbol to be placed after laying of the pall. A statue of Our Blessed Mother was chosen. Father's inspiring homily pictured our Sister when time to retire came, anxious to continue sharing Love, Knowledge and Service of God. Surely Sister Mary Eva was present enjoying her choices of Ubi Caritas, El Pescador, Pan de Vida, In Paradisum, Santa Maria del Camino, during Mass and Final Commendation.

Because of inclement weather Service in the Cemetery was held in the Gathering Space.

Thank you, Sister Mary Eva, and may you help us until we join you.

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,



Sister Marjorie Curran
General Secretary