

BRIDGET HYNES
April 24, 1986
Huntington, Indiana
April 26, 1986



Dear Sisters and Associates,

"... and then I shall come back to take you with me, that where I am you also may be."
(John 14:3)

The crowning of her faithful discipleship came on April 24, 1986 when Sister Bridget Hynes died peacefully in the Lord at 12:50 p.m. Thursday, in Holy Family Health Care Center while many Sisters were present saying the rosary.

Sister Bridget was very young when she came to the United States. In her oral history, she recalled that she cried so much that her sister Mary threatened to buy a ticket and send her back to Ireland. She did go back - later, after she had worked long enough to purchase a two-way ticket to assure herself that she would return to America. She stayed in Ireland about two weeks to visit her parents for whom she was so homesick and then returned to Chicago. After that, she was satisfied to stay and make her way here. She worked in different homes and recalled a Jewish woman who had been so good to her. Bridget was having problems with her eyes and the woman saw to it that she had an eye examination and was fitted with glasses for which Bridget reimbursed her later. Bridget never forgot her kindness.

Through her brother James, she became interested in nursing and received her training as a practical nurse at Cook County Hospital. She was working at the tuberculosis hospital when she heard of our Community. Father Sigstein had heard about her while he was living at St. Bernard's hospital. He sent for her and instructed her to make the novena to Our Blessed Lady of Victory and then return to him. She did as he had instructed her and returned to see him. Father told her she could enter the Society when she was ready. With Father, she visited the Sisters at the Annex in Gary on September 24, 1924 and on October 6, 1924 her sister Mary and brother James brought her via trolley to Gary where she entered. Sister Caroline Meister made this entry in the historical work report: "A hearty welcome was given to Miss Hynes who entered our dear Society." The entry was dated October 6, 1924. On December 6, 1924, Catechist Meister with Sisters Agnes Kozla and Bridget Hynes arrived at the Training Institute at Victory Noll.

After her profession of vows, Sister Bridget returned for a short time to the juniorate in Gary and then went to Anton Chico, her first mission. Throughout the years, Sister Bridget used her nursing skills to minister to the sick poor.

In Las Vegas, New Mexico, with the help of Father Dumarest, two rooms were secured in an old building in his parish. Under the guidance of Sister Bridget, the place was cleaned and set up for use as a dispensary and clinic. Even though the equipment was primitive, the best doctors and dentists offered their services at the clinic and more than fifty patients a week were treated. Besides medical treatment and supplying medication, nourishing food was provided for sick babies and necessary instruction was given to mothers on the care of their undernourished children.

In recalling the time she spent at the clinic with Sister Bridget, Sister Kathleen Leven observed that it was her tremendous kindness and compassion and her solicitude for the sick poor that made her work so successful and endeared her to the people. She said she saw many little miracles worked there. Once Sister Bridget treated an old woman who had pneumonia with a mustard plaster. When the woman did not improve, Sister Bridget asked the doctor to go and see her. He

did and found the woman dying. He told Sister Bridget to continue her treatment. She did and the woman lived.

In 1941, Sister Bridget returned to Victory Noll to serve as infirmarian for seven years. In 1951 she became housekeeper for the chaplain. She maintained this position until she retired in 1965. Sister enjoyed good health all her life and found it difficult when she was slowed down with arthritis. She continued to take part in community exercises and spent much of her time before the Blessed Sacrament until that too was no longer possible. With the slowing down because of age, Sister was not able to communicate for the past six years or so, but always remained docile, patient and uncomplaining. She did not seem to suffer from physical pain. In the past three weeks, she was able to receive Holy Communion several times.

Sister Bridget was born April 13, 1879 in Loughanafilan, Ruan, District of Corrofin, County Clare, Ireland. She entered the Community from Chicago, October 6, 1924 at Gary, Indiana and made first profession of vows at Victory Noll October 7, 1926. She celebrated her golden jubilee in 1974 and her diamond jubilee in 1984. Her family, a sister and three brothers preceded her in death.

A wake service was held Friday evening (April 25) at seven o'clock in Memorial Chapel with Father Giles leading the prayer service. Sister Mary Genevieve Dziejdzic did the first reading and Sister Florence Garbacz did the second reading. Sister's nephews, Thomas and Olive Shannon and John and Bernadette Hynes with their son William arrived shortly after the service. The time change had not been mentioned and they had forgotten about it. Pat and John Hynes, sons of John and Bernadette arrived from Chicago in the morning. They too, had forgotten about the time change.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Father Giles. Sisters Virginia Hamilton and Camilla Cray placed the pall on the casket, Sister Carmen sang the responsorial psalm, John and Bernadette and Olive Shannon carried the gifts. Father Giles reminded us again of the Resurrection - the Easter Mystery, which is a solution, a triumph, a shout of joy wherein we have been liberated and are filled with hope. Our lives should be an extension of that hope!

Sister Mary Louise Rowney spoke briefly of her remembrances of Sister Bridget and then led the prayers of commendation after the liturgy. It was a beautiful day to walk to the cemetery and many joined the procession.

Dinner was ready to be served when we came in from the cemetery and Sister's family visited briefly and returned to Chicago. Bishop Joseph Crowley visited around 3:30 p.m. He chatted awhile with Sister Margaret Mary Dunsmore and then visited the cemetery where he said the graveside prayers, left a blessing for Sister Bridget and then departed.

Another of our dear Sisters has gone home to the Lord. We thank the Father for the reflection of his love in this beautiful woman who always put the Lord first in her life and never lost her sense of humor - to our delight!

Always with love in Jesus and Mary,

Sister Germaine Stalley

Correction: Thoms Shannon, her nephew, did the first reading and Bill Hynes, her grandnephew, did the second reading.