



Victory Noll
Huntington, In.
August 31, 1991

Dear Sisters and Associates,

"The Cross is the gift God gives to his friends!"
(St. John Vianney)

On the feast of St. Monica, August 27, 1991 after the reception of the Sacraments of Anointing and Holy Viaticum, Sister Mary Genevieve Dziedzic died peacefully in the Lord. She was pronounced dead at the Huntington Memorial Hospital at 9:50 p.m.

On Saturday, August 17, Sister complained of chest pains which continued most of the day. She was taken to Huntington Memorial Hospital at 10:00 p.m. Examinations and tests showed some heart problems, but also a serious kidney condition. A week later, Sister was well enough to return to Victory Noll. During her stay in the hospital, her nephew Donald Dietz and niece Rita Pfister visited with her.

Her condition deteriorated and on Tuesday afternoon Sister seemed to know that her death was near and she asked to be anointed. Father McCarthy came at 4:00 p.m. and Sister was able to speak with Father and receive the Sacrament of the Anointing. Then Sister requested Holy Communion. Sister Rose Zita brought her Holy Viaticum at about 4:30 p.m. Sister Mary Genevieve prayed "Come Lord Jesus" and expressed gratitude for the blessings of having a priest for the anointing and receiving Holy Communion as Holy Viaticum.

At about 8:00 p.m., Sister appeared to be comatose and the Sisters gathered to say the rosary, the prayers for the dying and sing the Community song. The doctor was notified and he advised the nurses to take Sister to the hospital. The paramedics came and took Sister to the hospital. She was pronounced dead at the hospital at 9:50 p.m. August 27, 1991.

Sister Mary Genevieve returned to Victory Noll from Kendallville in 1966 because of health reasons. She suffered from chronic kidney disease over the years.

Sister Mary Genevieve spent 23 years of her religious life in the missions of Indiana, California and Ohio. From the Spring of 1943 until the Spring of 1945 she attended Siena Heights College in Adrian, Michigan and received her Bachelor of Philosophy Degree. In the Fall of 1945, she began her studies at St. Mary College at Notre Dame, In. She received her Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Religion July 30, 1948. Sister was a member of the faculty of Victory Noll Junior College from 1947 until 1950. From 1950 until 1966, she was missioned in Paulding, Kendallville, East Chicago and Detroit.

Here at the Noll, Sister fulfilled many of the "hidden duties" of community living. She picked up and distributed the mail and daily newspaper, visited the sick Sisters, prayed with them, read their mail to them and wrote letters for them. She helped those who brought Holy Communion to the sick, by knowing where everyone was and who was to receive. She took a keen interest in Harvest House and never missed a meeting from its beginning in Ft. Wayne and Huntington. The large group of Harvest House members present at her wake and funeral honored her by their presence and showed their appreciation for the gift of her presence among them.

Sister Mary Genevieve was born January 6, 1914 in Chicago and entered the Congregation from St. Hyacinth parish September 2, 1931 when she was seventeen years of age. She made first profession of vows September 8, 1934 and celebrated her Diamond Jubilee this past August.

Her brother Ted and his wife Ann and a dear friend Stefanie Buck arrived in time to meet the body at 4:00 p.m.

The wake was held at 7:00 p.m. The theme was Jesus as LIGHT. Sr. Lucy Marie Vega was leader and Srs Carolyn Issenmann and Mary Lucille Huegel did the readings. The relatives arrived in time for the service at 7:00 p.m. They were: Ted's sons, Tom Dietz with his wife Lorraine and daughter Jenny; Larry Dietz with his wife Dorothy; Jim Dietz with his wife Ginny. Ted's daughter Rita with her husband Dick Pfister and their family, Bob, Tod, Angela and Cheri. Another son Donald was unable to be present, but his son Mike Dietz of Notre Dame was present. Kenny and Lauri Dietz son and daughter of Tod (Ted's son who is deceased) were present; a cousin Victor Dietz and his wife Rose and an Aunt, Lottie Bielen. After the reception held after the wake service, all members of the family went back into chapel to say the rosary.

We were pleased and graced by the presence of Sister Mary Genevieve's family. They were gift to us!

The Liturgy of Christian Burial was concelebrated by Frs. Frank Kronewitter, Thomas Fahey, our chaplain, and James Cusack, visitor and friend from Michigan presently at Notre Dame. Srs. Mary Cecilia carried the cross and Evelyn Marie and Florentine carried the candles; Ted and his wife Ann placed the pall on the casket; Srs. Mary John and Mary Joan did the readings; Sr. Carmen sang the Responsorial and Alleluia Verse; Rita Pfister offered the intercessions and Tom, Larry and Jim Dietz brought up the gifts.

In his homily, Fr. Kronewitter brought out the message of hope and joy contained in the readings. Isaiah tells us that death will be destroyed forever! The Lord will wipe away all tears from our eyes, so let us rejoice and be glad! The first reading of John tells us that what we shall be has not yet come to light. We know that when it comes to light, we shall be like him for we shall see him as he is. The Gospels comforts us with the fact that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life and that he will prepare a place for us - shall come back to take us with him - that where he is, we also may be!

Father Fahey said the prayers of Commendation and after that we walked to the cemetery. Sr. Mary Joan brought several sisters to the cemetery in the golf cart. That is always helpful, because it is always so difficult for those who wish to go but find the walking too difficult. After the prayers, we came in to the dining room to enjoy a delicious dinner prepared by Vince and the cooks. The family stayed to visit in the dining room. They returned to Holy Family before returning home to Michigan in the afternoon.

Sister Mary Genevieve will be missed because she was so active and did so many "nice things" around Holy Family Community. Sister was well acquainted with pain and bore it the greater part of her religious life. Revelations describes her death perfectly: "The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" "Let her who hears, answer "Come!" "Come, Lord Jesus!" Rev. 22:17 .20.

May Sister Mary Genevieve intercede for us as we continue on the way!

Sincerely yours, Sister Germaine Stadler, olvm