



SISTER DOLORES TRINGL, OLVM 91 died on April 5, 2018, at Saint Anne Communities at Victory Noll, Huntington. She had been failing and Fr. Mike Lobo anointed her mid-afternoon. At the end, she returned to God rather quickly. Sister Rose Miller had been with her throughout the afternoon and was with her when around 6:30 PM she slipped into the hands of God.

Sister Dolores was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on October 20, 1926, the second daughter of, Martin Tringl and Mary Catherine (Krieger) Tringl. Her older sister, Marcella Tringl and her parents preceded her in death.

Sister Dolores was baptized Mary Dolores on October 24, 1926, at St. John Nepomuk Catholic Church. She attended St. Alphonsus High School. After graduation, she went work as a stenographer/secretary until she entered the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters on October 27, 1949. After making first vows on August 5, 1952, she went to her first mission in Greeley, Colorado. Sister Dolores went on to serve many other states and in congregational ministry including serving as an area coordinator for the mountain region from 1980-1984 and General Secretary from 2001-2003.

In a 1952 vocation talk, Sister Dolores concluded her remarks on why she became a Victory Noll Sister. She wrote, “And now as I reflect upon my initial motives for coming to Victory Noll, I find they are the same. I still want to be closely united to God as a Missionary Sister. I still want to do the Will of God. I still want to have adventure and activity, but the change lies in the reason. I want these things for the greater glory of God. I want these things for my own personal sanctification. I want these things so that I can be a mediator in fulfilling the primary motive for Christ becoming man — ‘that they may have life and may have it more abundantly.’”

Sister Dolores had many adventures and activity in her missionary life. She was a catechist at heart and worked in the ministry from her first mission until she became the Director of the Office of Religious for the Diocese of Phoenix in 1984. She also loved learning and continued to attend workshops throughout her life. She studied summers to get her undergraduate degree in Elementary Education from the University of Portland in 1964 and then continued her education with a Master’s degree in Theology from Saint Mary’s College in Moraga, California, in 1969. She received her Master of Arts in Counseling and Guidance from the University of Missouri in 1975.

One of her biggest adventures came in 1976 when she was serving as the Director of Religious Education for the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Missouri, and was invited to partner in presenting training for volunteer religious education teachers on U.S. Air Force Bases in six European countries. Another overseas adventure for Sister Dolores came in 1997 when she was able to visit the Czech Republic — the land of her ancestors — along with Switzerland, Germany, Austria, and Italy.

Sister Dolores also had much activity in her life, especially as she moved from the Diocesan Religious Education Office to Congregational Leadership and then back to a Diocesan office, where she was the first woman to be Director of the Office of Women Religious for the Diocese of Phoenix, Arizona. It was only after serving in this capacity for nine years that she decided to once again go back to “school” and begin a new adventure, this time as a hospital chaplain.

Hospital chaplaincy was a natural adaptation in ministry for Sister Dolores, who had years of experience in religious education and interaction with people. She took training to become a hospital chaplain, receiving her clinical pastoral training at University Medical Center in Tucson, Arizona, where she then became Resident Chaplain. Sr. Dolores was part of a team that provided 24-hour pastoral care to patients, their families, and sometimes for the hospital staff. She saw her ministry as a further extension of the Victory Noll charism. Sister Dolores worked with many people of many different cultures, from those with wealth and fame to those in extreme poverty. Her ministry also crossed religious boundaries. She once said, “I was often recognized as a Sister, even when I had not made that fact known.” One patient told her, “You nuns never lose your identity.” She attributed this to the simplicity of lifestyle characteristic of the Victory Noll Sisters.

Sr. Dolores returned to Victory Noll on February 21, 2015, and lived in Holy Family healthcare until it merged into Saint Anne Communities at Victory Noll in 2016.

We gathered for the vigil on Friday evening, April 6, 2018, and then again for the funeral liturgy on Saturday April 7, 2018. Unfortunately, none of Sister Dolores’ family were able to be with the community for these celebrations of Sister Dolores’ life.

In the scripture readings, that Sister Dolores chose for her vigil and funeral it became apparent that she had a longing to be with God. Fr. Mike Lobo said in his homily, “she was prepared to finally be with God and her community supported her in her final journey to find the one she loved.” She realized that as the psalmist had prayed many centuries ago, God had loved her with an everlasting love and had called her and she live totally for God.

Sister Dolores, you could not have known so many years ago just how much of an adventure you would have and how much activity you would enjoy as you set out on your journey to be a Victory Noll Missionary Sister. You have done many wonderful things, and have done them for “The Greater Glory of God.”

With peace and Blessings,



Sr. Ginger Downey, OLVM