

Victory Noll
Huntington, Indiana
May 17, 1977

Dear Sisters,

" . . . on the day when the glory of the Lord shall shine forth in splendor,
. . . that day, face to face, you shall see God, our Father!"

Deiss #62 p.30

That moment of glory came to Sister Viola in a quiet manner at 7:25 a.m. Monday morning, May 16, 1977. Within that hour we were celebrating the Eucharistic Sacrifice in thanksgiving for her final "Amen" wherein through the mystery of death she was united through new life in Jesus' unending love.

Early in 1975, Sister was referred to physicians at the University of Minnesota Medical Center for nasal surgery which was diagnosed as melanoma. To complicate the surgery, she had serious heart complications, plus a minor stroke. This nasal malignancy seemed to instigate a gradual deterioration with compounded complications which ultimately caused her death.

In April of 1976, Sister fell in her room and fractured her right hip. While hospitalized, she suffered another heart attack and had to be transferred to the cardiac care unit. Uremia and hypertension were also serious problems. When she returned to Victory Noll she did become somewhat ambulatory however, a gradual deterioration throughout the year was very evident. It seems to me that a special word of praise is due to Mrs. Mary Leffers and the nursing staff for their dedication in caring for the sick and for their loving care given to Sister Viola throughout her long illness. We can never forget these women who give themselves so completely to the care of our sick and elderly sisters. Nor can we forget the devotion of those who take the time to brighten the hours of the lonely and the sick by their visits and many services.

Sister Viola received the Sacrament of the Sick for the last time from Father John Holt on May 3. That same day at seven o'clock in the evening, Sister Ann Therese brought her the Eucharist which was to be her Holy Viaticum. Father Stephen went to her room to bless her on Friday morning after Mass on May 13. When death seemed imminent, the sisters kept watch around the clock. Sister Virginia was with her when she slipped into eternity.

In one of our visits together, Sister Viola told me how she came to enter the Congregation. It was through her best friend. It seems that her friend was interested in the Congregation and had spoken to Viola many times about Victory Noll. Then one day she asked Viola if she would care to come to Victory Noll with her over a week-end. Viola's first answer was a definite "no!" but then she considered that each time she asked her friend to go with her, her friend never turned her down; she called her friend to say that she was willing to go along. They came for a week-end. Sister Helen Srill asked Viola if she was interested and Viola said "no!" When she returned home, Viola wrote to Victory Noll asking for admission papers and they were sent to her shortly. Viola and her friend entered but her friend did not stay. It seems that she, her best friend, was God's instrument in bringing Sister Viola to the Congregation. Throughout the years they have continued their friendship through close communication with one another.

Throughout the years, along with her catechetical and social work, Sister Viola spent much time in public relations and through her work in publicity strengthened the ACM and MLH and brought financial support to the Congregation. She became deeply involved in speaking to the D of I members in various areas.

Sister's retirement in 1963 was only a transition to other apostolates here at the Noll. She spent long hours and years in the archives arranging, rearranging and filing manuscripts and did a tremendous job in that department. She also spent long hours speaking into tapes the lessons of all the text books for the three blind Gerswheiler youngsters while they were students at high school. Linda, the oldest girl, graduated with honors from Saint Francis College in 1975.

Sister Viola was born on December 4, 1900 in Cincinnati, Ohio and entered the Congregation from Hamilton, Ohio, October 29, 1928. She made first profession of vows April 4, 1932.

Sister is survived by her sister-in-law, Mrs. Marie Wopperer from Plant City, Florida. Marie was unable to come because of poor health. Sister's only brother Clifford preceeded her in death in 1974. Several cousins, Sister Mary Eustella Wuest of Oldenburg, Indiana, Father George Wuest, S.J. of Columbia, S.A. and Mrs. Marie Ruoff of Hamilton, Ohio were unable to come. Her three close friends were unable to come because of infirmities.

The Liturgy of Christian Burial was concelebrated by Father Michel Antoine, ofm, cap., and Father John Holt, ofm, cap. with the novices in attendance. Father Michel spoke of her espousals and the cost; of the need of the seed to die and the pain it brings. He said that Sister knew the pain of giving everything back to God and came to know Christ and His "yes" to the Father. She asked to be God's own and that was what happened. This day we celebrated love's work brought to completion!

Lovingly in Jesus and Mary,

Sister Germaine Staller