

NEWSLETTER OF OUR LADY OF VICTORY MISSIONARY SISTERS

Visions

FALL 2012

www.olvm.org

90 years and counting
Victory Noll Sisters celebrate anniversary
by looking back ... and looking forward





Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters is a community of women religious founded in 1922 by Father John Joseph Sigstein. The Victory Noll Motherhouse is located in Huntington, Indiana.

Victory Noll Sisters:

- Promote the Word of God
- Stand in solidarity with the poor
- Foster Justice
- Promote the development of leaders

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Jubilees and anniversaries are times to remember and give thanks. This summer as part of our Community Assembly, we did just that. We remembered with gratitude our Founder, Rev. John Joseph Sigstein, Archbishop John Francis Noll, friend and benefactor, and our early Sisters, especially Sisters Julia Doyle and Marie Benes, the first to answer the call to be Missionaries of Our Lady of Victory.

PERSPECTIVES ALONG THE JOURNEY

We also remembered each and every Sister in a beautiful memorial service. Our hearts were filled with gratitude as we recalled all the blessings we have received as a congregation and

how we have extended these blessings to others in the mutual sharing of our lives and ministries.

It is for us now, to continue the journey that was started 90 years ago, a journey of transformation. Along the way, we will need to address some critical issues; however, we know that crisis precedes transformation as death precedes the experience of new life. This we know in faith.

And so we walk into the future with the same love, courage and heart for the poor that those who came before us had. Fr. Sigstein described the life for which we strive, as "one long act of love and the test of love is sacrifice." May we continue to strive to "give all" for the sake of the Gospel. ❖

OLVM LEADERSHIP TEAM

Sister Beatrice Haines *Sister Judith Ann Turnock*
Leora Linnenkugel *Sister Genie Downey*

Visions is published two times a year by Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters. The staff welcomes articles about vowed members, associate members, or volunteers who are committed to the Victory Noll mission. Letters to the editor are also welcomed but must be signed. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit all written contributions.

Editor: Paul Siegfried

Leadership Team Liaison: Sr. Leora Linnenkugel

Local Photography: Sr. Grace Marie Samblanet,
Paul Siegfried, Sr. Maria Luisa Valdez

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Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters

Attn: Visions

PO Box 109

Huntington, IN 46750-0109

or reach us by e-mail: voc@olvm.org



OLVM

News&Notes

HUNTINGTON, IND.

Newest Leadership Team is installed

OLVM welcomed its new Leadership Team with an installation ceremony Aug. 4 in the Archbishop Noll Memorial Chapel.

Sister Beatrice Haines enters her second term as OLVM president. She is joined on the leadership team by Sr. Judy Turnock as vice president, Sr. Ginger Downey as general secretary and Sr. Leora Linnenkugel as general treasurer.

Outgoing team members are vice president Lucille Martinez, general secretary Betty Anderson and general treasurer Clarita Trujillo.

The new team was elected in March during Chapter meetings. They will serve until August 2016.



Victory Noll Sisters offer a blessing to new Leadership Team members (from left) Beatrice Haines, Judith Ann Turnock, Virginia Downey and Leora Linnenkugel during the installation ceremony August 4.

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.

Beginnings of OLVM are celebrated

When Father John Joseph Sigstein sent his first two catechists out to their first mission assignment in August 1922, he sent them to remote areas of New Mexico where the children were growing up without formal religious education.

OLVM has maintained

a presence in New Mexico ever since, and those 90 years of service to the people of the state was celebrated with a special event September 8 in Albuquerque.

More than 170 Victory Noll Sisters have served in New Mexico over the years, and more than 20 Sisters have roots in the state.

There are still Sisters missioned in the state with Sr. Teresa Aparicio-Cervantes and Sr. Angeline Walczyk in Albuquerque, Sr. Helen

Carney in Villanueva and Sr. Clarita Trujillo in Espanola.

Victory Noll also has a strong presence in the state with Covenant Associates. Alan Bronder and Steve and Palmira Hay carry on the work and spirit of the Sisters in Albuquerque, while Rita Santistevan is in Rancho de Taos.

There will be expanded coverage of the celebration in the next issue of *Visions*.

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Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

Week of events celebrates the history of OLVM while annual meeting plans for the future

By Paul Siegfried
OLVM Communications Coordinator

The annual Community Assembly at Victory Noll took on special significance this year as Sisters took time to celebrate 90 years of their existence. At the same time, they used the occasion to continue the planning for the future of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, their mission and their charism.

Events included special celebrations and exhibits focused on the history of OLVM along with week-long meetings discussing how the community continues to evolve. The week ended with the installation of a new leadership team and the Golden Jubilee for OLVM President Sr. Beaty Haines.

The committee that planned the week was chaired by Sisters Jeanette Halbach and Francesca McGarry, with contributions from many other Sisters and Victory Noll staff.

“It was most heartening to experience the positive response of the Sisters to all our 90th Anniversary festivities. The work entailed in planning and preparing was well worth



Sr. Judy Turnock (top, left) Talks with Sr. Francesca McGarry during Community meetings. Above, Sisters gather near the Bell Tower following a Vigil Service to open the week of celebrations.

the effort, as everyone seemed very pleased and happy about the week. It was all so typical of the Victory Noll Spirit. We know how to celebrate!” said Sr. Jeanette. “Sister Francesca and I are most grateful for the help we received from our co-workers, Associates and Sisters. God has truly blessed us and we look forward to the future with hope and joy.”

A Vigil Service opened the week on Sunday, July 29 with prayer and thanksgiving for all that has been and trust in all that will be. On Monday, July 30, Bishop Kevin Rhoades of the South Bend-Fort Wayne Diocese presided over the Eucharistic Celebration in the Archbishop Noll Memorial Chapel. The day recognized the legacy of Victory Noll benefactor Archbishop John Francis Noll, and Bishop Rhoades took the occasion to celebrate the history and work of the



Bolivian Sisters
Guadalupe Flores-Ocaña (left), Adela Amoroso-Medrano (center) and Guadalupe Aguilar-Huanca display dance steps from their native country during a night celebrating OLVM's Hispanic roots and South American ties.

Victory Noll Sisters.

“The first Missionary Catechists and the Missionary Sisters throughout these 90 years have been envoys of God’s peace to so many,” said Bishop Rhoades in his homily. “I think particularly of their visits to the poor and sick. How many people have experienced God’s peace and God’s love and mercy through the lives and ministries of the Sisters of this community?”

Throughout the week, an exhibit was on display in the Multiculture Room of the OLV Building at Victory Noll featuring items dating back to the community’s founding in 1922. Among the items was the chair of community founder Father John Joseph Sigstein. There were pieces from the first days of the initial mission of the Sisters in

New Mexico, as well as items from the community’s mission in Bolivia, multimedia exhibits and artifacts from the Victory Noll archives.

Sisters gathered for their Community meetings in which they worked with consultant Dr. Ted Dunn as they plan the future path for

Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters. They began looking in new ways at their community’s charism, mission and manner of living in this changing world. How can the special gift, the charism, of the Community be understood in light of contemporary times? This is just one of the challenging questions facing Religious Women today.

The conclusion of the week featured a special Friday night service remembering the Sisters who have died. There were candles lit for each of those Sisters and special benefactors who contributed to the creation and early development of OLVM.

On Saturday, August 4, the new leadership team was installed in a special ceremony. In the spirit of Mary they responded with a “yes” to God’s call to the mission entrusted to them, trusting in the working of the Holy Spirit in them and in all the members of the Congregation. ❖



Bishop Kevin Rhoades (left) greets Sister Joan Arnold following a special Mass at Victory Noll. Bishop Rhoades and Sr. Joan are both natives of Lebanon, Pa. Top right, Sr. Beaty Haines meets with consultant Dr. Ted Dunn during Community meetings. Right, dolls showing the various OLVM habits were part of a historical display.





Sister John Francis Radler

BIRTHPLACE: Milwaukee, Wisconsin **ENTERED OLVM:** March 12, 1938

MISSION HISTORY: **California** (Redlands, San Diego), **Washington D.C.**, **Indiana** (Fort Wayne, Victory Noll), **New Mexico** (Tohatchi), **Arizona** (Tucson), **Wisconsin** (Milwaukee), **Ohio** (Northfield).

MISSION WORK: Catechetical ministry, social work, clinic administration and medical social service, community administration, caregiver, administration of senior citizen residences.

70th-Year Jubilarians **Jubilarias de 70 Años**



Sister Martha Molohon

BIRTHPLACE: Curdsville, Kentucky **ENTERED OLVM:** October 27, 1942

MISSION HISTORY: **Texas** (Lubbock, El Paso), **New Mexico** (Santa Fe), **California** (Coachella, Ontario, San Fernando, Redlands, San Pedro), **Missouri** (Neosho, Flat River), **Kentucky** (Beattyville), **Michigan** (Imlay City).

MISSION WORK: Catechist, pastoral ministry.



Sister Carolyn Issenman

BIRTHPLACE: Hamilton, Ohio **ENTERED OLVM:** October 28, 1942

MISSION HISTORY: **Nevada** (Ely), **Utah** (Salt Lake City), **Colorado** (Brighton, Montrose), **Ohio** (Washington Court House, Van Wert, Coldwater), **Indiana** (South Bend, Victory Noll), **California** (Redlands, Montclair), **Michigan** (Imlay City, Reed City).

MISSION WORK: Catechetical ministry, CCD coordinator, consultant, director of religious education, teacher training, archives, communications.



Sister Mary Magdalen Heim

BIRTHPLACE: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania **ENTERED OLVM:** October 28, 1942

MISSION HISTORY: **Ohio** (Paulding), **Indiana** (San Pierre, Gary, Victory Noll), **Massachusetts** (West Harwich), **Colorado** (Montrose, Rocky Ford), **Wyoming** (Cheyenne, Green River), **Nevada** (Elko), **California** (Redlands, Ontario, Calexico), **Utah** (Salt Lake City, Toole), **Arizona** (Florence).

MISSION WORK: Catechetical ministry, choir, home visitation, census work.

News&Notes *continued*

CHICAGO, ILL.

Meza new director at Julia Center

With Sr. Leora Linnenkugel leaving as director of Julia Center to assume duties on the OLVM Leadership Team, Teresa Meza has taken over as director of the center. Sr. Leora will remain in-



Teresa Meza



Raquel Diaz

involved with the center's board of directors as treasurer.

Meza has worked at Julia Center for a number of years, starting

when she was a student. She eventually became Program Director for the center. Last year, she was honored with Julia Center's "Women's Achievement Award."

Raquel Diaz is also back on the staff at Julia Center as bookkeeper. Involved almost since the founding of the center, Diaz has been a member of the Julia Center leadership team. ❖

60th-Year Jubilarians **Jubilarias de 60 Años**



Sister Mary Ellen Descourouez

BIRTHPLACE: Geneva, Illinois

ENTERED OLVM: January 6, 1953

MISSION HISTORY: **Colorado** (Colorado Springs), **California** (San Pedro, Montclair, Redlands), Florida (Miami), **Texas** (El Paso, Eagle Pass), **Bolivia** (Buena Vista), **Illinois** (Chicago), **Indiana** (Victory Noll).

MISSION WORK: Catechetical ministry, vocation-formation director, Leadership Team, pastoral associate.



Sister Mary Louise Rowney

BIRTHPLACE: Kokomo, Indiana

ENTERED OLVM: September 7, 1952

MISSION HISTORY: **Iowa** (Delhi), **California** (Azusa, Indio), **Massachusetts** (North Easton), **Michigan** (Detroit), **Colorado** (Denver), **Illinois** (Chicago), **Indiana** (Kokomo, Victory Noll).

MISSION WORK: Catechetical ministry, Leadership Team, caregiver, community administration, diocesan director of religious education, adult education.



Sister Mary Doran

BIRTHPLACE: Ludlow, Kentucky

ENTERED OLVM: January 6, 1953

MISSION HISTORY: **California** (San Fernando, Redlands, Los Angeles, Brawley, San Pedro, Indio, Coachella, Delano), **Arizona** (Phoenix), **Indiana** (Lafayette, Beverly Shores).

MISSION WORK: Catechetical ministry, community administration, paralegal, lay leadership training with farm workers.



Sister Rose Miller

BIRTHPLACE: Flasher, North Dakota

ENTERED OLVM: September 15, 1952

MISSION HISTORY: **Iowa** (Delhi), **Indiana** (San Pierre), **Michigan** (Detroit), **Nevada** (Elko, Winnemucca, Hawthorne), **California** (San Pedro), **Missouri** (St. Louis), **Arizona** (Tucson).

MISSION WORK: Catechetical ministry, director of social services.

50th-Year Jubilarian **Jubilaria de 50 Años**



Sister Beatrice Haines

BIRTHPLACE: Goshen, Indiana

ENTERED OLVM: September 5, 1962

MISSION HISTORY: **New Jersey** (South Bound Brook), **California** (Los Angeles), **Illinois** (Chicago), **Texas** (Fabens), **New Mexico** (Albuquerque), **Indiana** (Victory Noll).

MISSION WORK: Catechetical ministry, vocation team, evangelization outreach, pastoral ministry, community administration, Leadership Team.

In Memoriam

Sr. Marlene Wolf, OLVM
February 15, 2012

Sr. Marjorie Curran, OLVM
April 27, 2012

Sr. Ann Shirley Kelly, OLVM
July 25, 2012

Sr. Dorothy Louise Wortmann,
OLVM
September 6, 2012

Sr. Rose Elizabeth Hohner, OLVM
April 9, 2012

Sr. Margaret Ann Altmiller,
OLVM
May 4, 2012

Sr. Helena Smith, OLVM
August 26, 2012



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Visions FROM THE VICTORY NOLL ARCHIVES



There was a time when the reach of the ministries of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters stretched from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico. In this 1950s photo, Sister Miriam Doyle stands in front of a map showing the locations of 77 Victory Noll mission centers across 20 states. ❖