



SISTER REGINA MARIE MORRISSEY, OLVM, 94, a resident of Saint Anne's Communities at Victory Noll, Huntington, Indiana, died peacefully in the late afternoon of July 14, 2023.

Sister Regina Marie was born in Jackson, Michigan, on February 20, 1929, the third child and first daughter to Robert E. Morrissey and Florence Hahn Morrissey. She was baptized Regina Theresa on March 10, 1929, at Saint John the Evangelist Catholic Church, in Jackson. She is preceded in death by her parents, two brothers, Robert J. Morrissey and Joseph F. Morrissey, and her sister Maureen Morrissey. Sister Regina Marie is survived by many nieces, nephews, friends, and her Victory Noll Sisters with whom she shared life and community for almost 70 years.

Sister entered the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters on September 25, 1953, and made first vows on August 5, 1956. She served in the states in Texas, New Jersey, Indiana and Ohio.

Sister Regina Marie asked Sister Leora Linnenkugel to give her eulogy. The following is Sister Leora's reflection on her experience knowing Sister Regina Marie for more than 35 years.

"I observed over the years Regina's four great loves.

"Sister Regina's family is her first great love. Her parents, Robert and Florence, her brothers Robert and Joseph and her sister Maureen, her niece, nephews, and cousins are all part of Sister Regina's first love. They were all forever in her mind and her prayers. Everyone who knew Regina, for any length of time, heard all about her beloved family. Those who heard the many family stories or those who met family members experienced the joy of Sister's family, her first love.

"The second great love will be no surprise to anyone who knew her. Music permeated her whole being. It came easily to Regina as she had a splendid voice. Very early, she found ways to express the joy singing brought her. She even joined a Sweet Adeline Quartet when she was a young adult. However, singing was not enough for Sister Regina. She expanded her musical knowledge by becoming a superb organist. Sister Regina freely shared both her voice and the organ in different ministries throughout her life as a Victory Noll Sister. Once, in Kendallville, Indiana, Bishop William McManus, then Ordinary of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, expressed his gratefulness for the many times her adult choir contributed to the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

“Sister Regina’s third love was experienced by those with whom she ministered. Sister Regina excelled in adult education. This was a vital part of all religious education programs, and expressed primarily through catechist formation and parent education. However, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) — which welcomes new members into the Church — is a specialized form of adult education. Sister Regina spent many hours helping those who desired to become members of the Catholic Church. Some, sitting here, experienced Sister Regina’s deep love for sharing the gospel message through RCIA or bible study classes. I firmly believe they would all say they are eternally grateful for the precious time and knowledge Sister Regina shared with them.

“Finally, the fourth, and perhaps, the greatest love of Sister Regina is religious life. We are grateful, Sister Regina Marie, for your faithful service in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus. I personally will always be grateful for witnessing how you lived as a consecrated Sister. You demonstrated a life, which drew me to enter and join my life with you and our community of Victory Noll Sisters.”

The Sisters gathered on Friday afternoon July 21, 2023, to begin the rituals of farewell with the vigil service. On Saturday morning, July 22, 2023, about 25 family members and friends joined the Sisters in the funeral liturgy in the Archbishop Noll Memorial Chapel at Victory Noll. The service included beautiful music and readings that Sister Regina had chosen.

Sister Regina Marie, may you now experience the fullness of life and join the choir of heaven praising God in with your voice, as you did with for many years by your life of service.

With Gratitude and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sr. Ginger Downey, OLV". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sr. Ginger Downey, OLV