

Sister Florentine Lohr

Wisdom Figure

Victory Noll
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May 1, 2003

Dear Sisters, Associates, Family Members and Friends,

*Be yourself,
don't pretend to be who you are not.*

From: Rural Wisdom by Jerry Apps

These words of wisdom speak of the life and death of Sister Florentine Lohr. In a brief chronical of her life that Sister herself wrote, she gives us insight about her wisdom and how she truly was "herself."

Sister writes about her first appointment on August 6, 1942 to a new mission, Santa Isabel's Parish, East Los Angeles, California, "I was a bit frightened to think of going to such a large city. My experience of life had been confined to a farming country on the northern plains of the United States." Sister was born in Clark, South Dakota on February 12, 1914 to Michael Lohr and Regina Hoffman Lohr.

Sister continues to be herself as she expresses her fears and wisdom in her chronicles: "Ten days after I took final vows on August 5, 1948 in the Chapel at Queen of the Missions, Redlands, California, I was shocked to learn that my next mission assignment was to be in Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish, Middlesex, New Jersey, ... to take part in the opening of another new mission, the first in the 'far east'. Five happy years followed."

But... "July 2, 1953 is a date I shall never forget. It was the day of a significant turning point in my life as a Missionary Sister. We had returned home at noon after a morning of vacation school in a little parish in the 'mountains.' The mail that day included a letter from Victory Noll reading, 'You have been selected by the Council to be Mistress of Postulants for the coming year. Bring all belongings with you when you come for retreat.' The rest of that summer, 1953, is kind of a

blur to me. The same can be said of the next four years during which I welcomed four different groups of postulants and tried to give them a meaningful orientation for their life ahead.”

In 1958 Sister was assigned Academic Dean of our Victory Noll Junior College along with the appointment of being the Mistress of Novices. This ministry occupied the major part of her time, attention, worries and tears. Then, as a Chapter Delegate on August 6, 1962 she writes, “By the end of that day, I had entered an entirely new phase of my life and had assumed the duties and responsibilities of being Superior General and then President of our beloved Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters.” In this role she continued being a “wisdom figure” to Sisters on Committees, to Sisters making decisions, or to Sisters just living their usual lives and for future Presidents.

In 1971 Sister began eight years of ministry at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Clinic in Tucson, AZ. In 1979 she returned to Victory Noll to assist in the Finance Office, later to become a member of the Pastoral Care Team in Holy Family Health Care Center, and finally to retire in 2002. The God of Wisdom who created her a “Wisdom Figure” called her to enjoy a new dwelling place on April 23, 2003 at 5:45 PM when she died peacefully, quietly and quickly.

Sister is survived by three sisters, Estella Lohr, Rose Lohr and Beth Lohr Hartman all of Sioux Falls, SD. She was preceded in death by one sister, Evelyn Lohr Mohror. Sister’s Vigil Service was on April 25th, 2003 and Mass of Christian Burial at 10:30 AM, April 26. No members of the family were able to attend. Victory Noll Sisters from Chicago, Coldwater, Ft. Wayne, Ligonier along with former members Rita Johann Berg, Theresaleen Odell, and present and past staff persons at Victory Noll attended the funeral Mass with Father Thomas Fahey presiding.

Sister Rita Musante gave the homily. She describes Sister in this way: “Florentine knew tears: her own and those she had inadvertently caused others. She experienced her own kind of pain and now death, longing and believing, praying and trusting that the dreams of God will come true. And now she is enjoying that new world and new city ... where the Risen Christ presides.”

In God’s peace, joy, love,

Sister Dolores Tringl

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General Secretary,
Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters