



October 31, 1994

"Give her eternal rest, O Lord.
May light unending shine on her.
Receive her soul, O holy ones,
Present her now to God, most High." (Missal Issue 677 - 92)

Dear Sisters:

Our Recessional today at the Mass of the Resurrection was this plea from all of us that Sister Effie may be received into eternal peace. It was a Song of Farewell 'til we meet again.

Sister Effie McConnell was born to Alvah and Edith Johnston McConnell, March 20, 1904, in Monroe County, near Bloomington, Indiana. She was baptized in the Rite of the Roman Catholic Church, April 16, 1925, in the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Sister entered the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters on February 9, 1928, and was made a Consecrate on March 25, 1928. She professed first vows on March 25, 1930.

The following years Sister Effie had assignments to teach in the missions in Indiana, California and New Mexico. A significant change came with her 1938 assignment - to Victory Noll. How many Sisters have said they came totally unprepared for this piece of work or that piece of work. Sister Effie was one of them. However, she became prepared for one ministry after another as needs arose in buildings or on the grounds here at Victory Noll. Sometimes her preparation was from a class, more often from a book and no doubt, sometimes from her own good common sense.

One of her interesting stories begins with the call to teach the Novices how to drive a car. To qualify for this she entered a driver teacher training course at Manchester College together with a group of men folks and one other woman. One day the lesson was on the moving parts of a car. As time came for a break in class the teacher facetiously said that any members who wished to assemble the parts he had been explaining were welcome to do so during recess. Every man disappeared. Two women were sitting with nothing to do. One suggested to the other that they accept the challenge. The instructor had a surprised and questioning look on his face when he returned to see his display in one piece.

As the years went by, Sister Effie became recognized as a printer, a carpenter, an electrician, a plumber, a cabinet maker, a gardener and orchard caretaker.

The time for retirement from strenuous work and responsibility came. A man was engaged to take over. Sister Effie gave him a tour, acquainted him with the tools and chores. After a week he left. The next morning this remark was heard from Sister, "Give me the hammer. I'm the 'man of the house' again."

It was in 1975 when Sister retired to an OLVM convent in Tucson, Arizona, a good climate for her health. There she shared her talents and love with our Sisters, the neighbors and many people she won as friends.

The past seven years at Holy Family Health Center, her health has hindered her from much walking. The service she rendered was in the form of sewing, crocheting, knitting and needlework as well as prayer.

Death came Friday evening, October 28, 1994. That afternoon she had returned from St. Joseph's Medical Center in Fort Wayne by ambulance. Her sister, Leola Moore, and Sisters from Victory Noll and Fort Wayne, had been with her continually in the hospital. About 9 P.M. Sisters were called to her bedside and the chapels for Rosary. She breathed her last about 10:30 P.M.

Sunday afternoon Sisters met the body as it was returned to the Noll. They processed into the gathering space and prayed Office for the Dead and the Rosary. Some relatives and friends were present for the Wake Service in the evening.

Sister Effie's family, sisters, nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, a great, great niece and a great, great nephew, who were present for the funeral Monday morning were: sisters, Leola Moore of Bloomington and Lou Ellen Kasten of Boca Raton, Florida; Laura J. McCannon, LuAnne McCannon from Indianapolis; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Dutton, Penny Arnold and daughter from Ellettsville; Jean Smith from Lafayette; Ed Smith from Brookston; Dan and Kim O'Banion, Pat and Judy O'Banion, Susan Waikel, Ocie Moore of Huntington. Many friends were also here.

Father Thomas Fahey celebrated the liturgy. Sister Martha Wordeman reflected on the well-chosen Readings from Chronicles and St. Luke, as were requested by Sister Effie. She summed her thoughts in an old familiar hymn which Sister Effie must have known and loved. Leola sang it to her this week as she watched so diligently at Sister's bedside:

"And He walks with me and He talks with me
And He tells me I am His own
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known."

Remember, Sister Effie, you have written: "It's what the Lord gave me to do. I don't think it is so much compared to what a Sister does when she is in front of a class teaching." Thank you again, Sister, for the wonderful lived example that we really are all united in One Body.

Christ's Peace,

Sister Marjorie Curran

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