



June 22, 1995

Dee, may it be for us
as it was for you
Santa Fe all the way.

Dear Sisters:

Today we are praying to, as well as for, Sister Dolores (Dee) Chenot who died June 5, 1995 at her mission in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She was buried in Victory Noll cemetery June 9 after the Mass of Resurrection in our Memorial Chapel.

Sister Dolores was born August 17, 1931 to Albert and Margaret Burke Chenot in St. Louis, Missouri. She graduated from Rosati-Kain High School there. After three years in the postulancy and novitiate of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters Congregation she pronounced first vows August 5, 1953.

For 42 years Sister Dolores maintained a spirit of enthusiasm in the field of religious education. It is interesting to note the variety of methods she used to bring the message of Jesus as she journeyed from mission to mission answering His call. The following paragraph contributed by Sister Nancy Petruzzi, tells it best:

"As a member of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters Dolores has ministered as a professional Catechist throughout the United States in California, Utah, Michigan, New Mexico, Northwest Oklahoma, South Texas - Mathis, the Corpus Christi area and especially in the Rio Grande Valley - McAllen and Weslaco. She served as Vocation Director 6 years for the Congregation. In 1989 she came to New Mexico to minister as a Regional Catechist for the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. In 1990, due to an illness, Dolores lost most of her eyesight. Being an innovator and self-starter, she had the desire to continue ministering in spite of very limited vision. In 1992, she and her co-team minister and friend of many years, Nancy Petruzzi, OLVN, have been Catechists in private practice as co-founders and co-directors of Skills for Living Educational Resources, Inc. This is a non-profit organization serving especially Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico in training sessions in the various life skills, such as: value clarification, decision-making, problem solving, faith growth, parenting, communication, etc. She has co-authored a number of articles for catechetical and pastoral leaders and a three year cycle Lenten Discussion Guide in both English and Spanish entitled: Simply Scripture."

Sister Dolores had taken every opportunity over the years to prepare herself for the changing field of catechetics through continuing education courses, workshops and seminars. She was also an instructor in the Lubach Literacy Training.

However, this schedule she had created for herself included time for fishing, hiking, swimming, oil painting, music, reading (in recent years via The Talking Books) and developing her computer skills. Dolores was noted for being a great story-teller and for bringing fun and happy times to many folks.

The wake for Sister Dolores was Thursday evening June 8. Her family and friends were arriving in the afternoon and many were present with us for the 4:30 rosary and prayers. The evening service included a beautiful Special Visual Meditation of slides and music arranged by Sisters Nancy and Dolores.

The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Joseph Imesch of the Joliet diocese Friday morning. Among the 35 relatives and friends present were: three sisters, Margaret Mlynczak and husband, Bernard, of Florissant, Missouri; Patricia Pekarek and husband, Herman, of Statesville, North Carolina; Mary Koziboski of Greendale, Wisconsin; two brothers, Francis X. Chenot of Kansas City, Missouri and Albert and wife, Marilyn, of St. Louis, Missouri.

Sister Dolores had asked Sister Beatrice Haines to give the homily. It was based on the Gospel, John 21 (3-14). Sister spoke of the hospitality and sharing of a meal by Jesus and the apostles - so like it was in the convent of Dee and Nancy.

The introduction to this letter comes from a story in the homily:

"Sister Mary Helen Rogers has been corresponding regularly with Dolores for several years. During Lent, she shared with Dee a thought from Father Edward Hayes for a lenten motto. It came from an American railroad logo: a blue cross on a white circular field on which are the words, 'Santa Fe,' meaning, of course, holy faith. The slogan of the railroad is, 'Santa Fe All The Way.' Father Hayes defined Santa Fe as a deep, abiding trust in God and God's perpetual providential care. In later letters to Mary Helen, Dee referred to 'Santa Fe All The Way' reflecting her trust in God's loving care for her."

Bishop Imesch concluded the Mass with a few words for all of us of his acquaintance and ministry-sharing with Sister Dolores before he was consecrated bishop. His remembrances of her insights, humor and life were so similar to our recollections of Sister.

The bell tolled, the recessional hymn, Pescador de Hombres, sounded and Bishop walked with us to the cemetery to lead the final prayers of the service for our Sister Dolores.

Sincerely in Our Lady of Victory,

Sister Marjorie Curran
General Secretary