

Victory Noll
August 21, 1978

Dear Sisters

"Come, you whom my Father has blessed," says the Lord; "inherit the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world."

The celebration of new life in Christ was the cause of our joy today as we came together in faith to bring to final rest our Sister Emma Elizabeth Dietz. We are grateful to the Father for the reflection of His love in this quiet woman who worked hard and prayed intensely.

Two years ago Sister was hospitalized for a serious heart condition. Since that time a gradual deterioration has been noticeable. This past winter was hard on her, however with the coming of spring she was determined to visit her family in Illinois. Somehow, her plans were changed because she just didn't feel strong enough to make the trip. Her physician in Fort Wayne ran numerous tests and gave her many different medications and treatments, but there was little or no response as far as our nursing staff could see.

When serious symptoms caused her extreme weakness, she was taken to Huntington Memorial hospital on Monday, August 14. She was transferred to St. Joseph's hospital in Fort Wayne on Thursday, August 17, arriving about noon, and was placed in intensive care around 5:00 p.m. Sister was anointed at this time with Sister Bridie and Sister Camilla present. Her niece, Mary Catherine had arrived around noon on Thursday and was with Sister from early afternoon until evening when she returned to Victory Noll with Sister Gertrude. Father John Wanner, chaplain, was with Sister when she died quite suddenly at 2:50 a.m. on Friday morning from cardiorespiratory arrest. Father said her death was beautiful and peaceful.

Sister returned to Victory Noll after retirement in 1967, but she never lost interest in catechetics. For many years, until 1975, she taught the third grade in Columbia City and never missed a Sunday except when the roads were impassable. She loved gardening and her well kept flower-bed by Our Lady's statue in front of the chapel expressed her love and devotion for Our Blessed Mother.

Sister Emma Elizabeth was born on March 2, 1899 in Ridgeway, Illinois, one of ten children, five of whom preceded her in death. She entered the Congregation March 24, 1926 and made first profession of vows at Victory Noll on March 25, 1928. Sister celebrated her golden jubilee of entrance on March 25, 1976.

Surviving her are three sisters and one brother, all of whom were present for the funeral: Catherine and Frona of Shawneetown, Ill.; Theresa and her husband Roy of Overland, MO., and Peter of Shawneetown; Jim and Dean Deitz (nephews) from Carmi, Ill.; Mary Catherine Brown (niece) of Shawneetown; and Norma Jean Patton (niece) from Gary, Indiana.

The body was brought to Victory Noll on Sunday at 5:00 p.m., and the Sisters formed the long honor guard into the Chapel where the body lay in state until the funeral Mass. The wake service was held on Sunday at 7:30 p.m., and the Liturgy of Christian Burial was celebrated on Monday at 10:30 a.m.

Father Martin Pable, ofm cap., celebrated the Eucharist with four of the Novices assisting him in the sanctuary. Sister Jeanette gave a beautiful and inspiring homily. She captured the true picture of this quiet woman when she spoke of her faithfulness. Truly, that is what her life was all about! She was called to be faithful to the Lord and to minister to others in love, and this she did for 52 years. We are grateful to the Lord for Sister Emma Elizabeth.

The words of Coleridge came to me as we walked in procession to the cemetery: "Earth with all its voices praises God!" The morning was perfect and all the sounds seemed to call forth praise. It was an impressive sight to see so many Sisters in procession - Sisters gathered together for the Chapter of Affairs. Yes, we were praising God -- for Love's work brought to completion in our Sister.

Lovingly in Jesus and Mary

Sister Germaine Stadler