



May 10, 1993

Dear Sisters and Associates,

Death, the gateway to eternal life, claimed Sister Mary Margaret Javaux on May 5, 1993. Sister had been a long-time resident of Holy Family Health Care Center, having returned to Victory Noll in 1966.

Severe arthritis made it necessary for Sister to give up her work in the missions. At first she was able to take part in community activities and handle some household duties at Victory Noll. As time went on, osteoporosis and other complications made this limited activity more and more difficult. During recent years Sister has remained in her room for the most part.

In April of this year Sister Mary Margaret was hospitalized with a blood clot in her left leg. Various diagnostic tests at this time also revealed cancer of the colon and severe anemia. Surgery was not recommended at that time, so Sister returned home where she was given intravenous and oxygen therapy. On April 29 Sister's condition deteriorated and she appeared comatose. On May 5 Sister's breathing gradually ceased and she passed peacefully into eternity. Sisters Mary Rosella Lengerich and Barbara Marie Witt, as well as nurse, Shirley Lightner, were at her bedside.

Sister Mary Margaret was born September 26, 1905 in Perryville, Missouri. The Javaux family included two daughters and four sons. Sister was second to the youngest. Her sister and brothers preceded her in death.

Sister entered Victory Noll on October 28, 1927. Following first profession of vows in 1930, Sister spent thirty-four years in the missions. Religious Education, parish census work, and home visitation were the works which claimed most of her time. Much of Sister's work was centered in Indiana, Texas, California, and Colorado. She was also missioned to Missouri, New Mexico, Michigan, and Kentucky.

Sisters who knew Sister Mary Margaret during the years of her active ministry describe her as a stately and attractive person who was both charming and gracious. At the Wake service Sister Mary Helen Rogers recalled the time when she and Sister Mary Margaret spent time in Missouri together, visiting their families: "Sister Mary Margaret was a delightful companion and the kind of Sister I was proud to have represent our Congregation". Sister Mary Rosella Lengerich recalled Sister's sincere and kind concern for others, especially during times of illness.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus was the main focus of Sister's prayer life. Despite her pain and discomfort, she was very faithful to daily Mass and Community prayers.

Sister Mary Margaret enjoyed a good joke, and she was always on the lookout for a joke to share with those with whom she corresponded.

The Liturgy of Christian Burial was celebrated by Father Thomas Fahey on May 7, 1993. In his homily Father spoke of the beauty of heaven, and the joy of being welcomed there by our loved ones. Few of us can remember a time when Victory Noll was more beautiful than it is this Spring (a result of so much rain and the many, many beautiful flowers planted by Father and the Sisters). Father went on to remind us that the beauty of this world is nothing compared to the beauty of heaven, which we should always keep before us. St. Therese said, "My name is written in heaven".

We rejoice that Sister Mary Margaret has begun her eternity of joy in the presence of God, the God who has promised life eternal---asking only that we love!

In the peace of Christ,

*Sister Elizabeth Ann*

Sister Elizabeth Ann Evans, O.L.V.M.