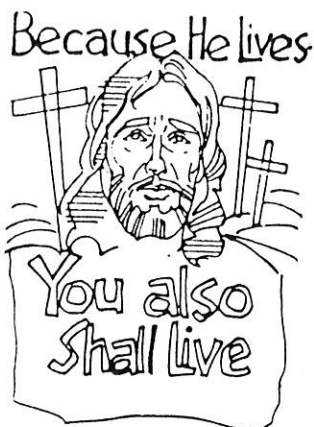


Victory Noll May 01, 1989
 Huntington, Indiana
 May 3, 1989



Dear Sisters and Associates,

"My soul is thirsting for the living God; when shall I see him face to face?"
 (Responsorial Psalm, Ps. 42:3)

It was Monday, April 10, and Sister Miriam was in her office writing a letter to Jill Long, Indiana's newly elected Congress woman, when she left her typewriter to go to the reading room to check some information in the newspaper. She was seated at one end of the table and Sr. Marie Schene was seated at the other end, reading. Suddenly, Sr. Miriam gave a gasp and Sr. Marie looked up to see Sr. Miriam falling to the floor. She rushed to catch her, but was unable to reach her in time. Sr. Marie called for help and Srs. Mary Joan and Virginia came at once to administer CPR, as Sr. Miriam was not breathing. The para-medics arrived a few minutes later and had to shock her as her heart had stopped. Sr. Miriam started to breathe as they put her in the ambulance. She was taken to Huntington Memorial Hospital, but transferred to St. Joseph Medical Center within a few hours. Sister was placed in IC, on a respirator and heart monitor.

On April 13th, Betty Doyle, Leonard's wife and her daughter Elizabeth Doyle with her husband, Jerry Hasselbrink and son Willie of St. Joseph, MN., drove down to see Sr. Miriam. Rosemary Beales, Sr. Miriam's sister from Hyattsville, Md., arrived Friday morning, April 14th. All went to see Sister and it was at this visit that Sr. Miriam squeezed Rosemary's hand. During the first few days, there were slight signs of recognition, but Sr. Miriam did not regain full consciousness. Betty Doyle's sons, Justine and Michael arrived on Saturday, April 15th. All of the Doyle family returned to MN on Sunday, April 16th. Sr. Miriam's cousin, Bill bulger with his wife Gerry from Milwaukee and his sister, Rita Ferguson from Chicago, stayed overnight and left the next day. Rosemary's daughter, Carol Sams of Gambrills, Md. arrived April 22nd and stayed until the 24th to be with her mother and Sr. Miriam.

Sr. Miriam was taken out of the IC unit on April 29th, as she was able to breathe on her own. But, on the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, she went home to God at 3:00 a.m. Monday morning, May 1, 1989 in St. Joseph Medical Center in Fort Wayne.

Sr. Miriam Doyle, daughter of the late James J. and Emma nee Lange Doyle, was born January 28, 1911 in Wilmette, IL, the second oldest of four children. She graduated from Holy Angels High School and Marquette University with a B.A. Degree in Journalism in 1932. Sr. Miriam tells her own story of her vocation which was an attraction to a particular apostolate. While she was attending Marquette University, she taught Sunday School classes in Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish. She loved the Mexican children. After she had met the Missionary Catechists and heard Sr. Viola speak at a convention, she went home to tell her mother, "now I know what I want to be!" She waited two years until her sister Rosemary had graduated from Marquette before she entered the Congregation. She entered from Gesu parish in Milwaukee on August 28, 1934 and made first profession of vows at Victory Noll August 15, 1937. She celebrated her Golden Jubilee in 1984.

Sr. Miriam's ministry included catechetics, social action, and the Diocesan Religious Education Office. Thirty-seven years were spent in the missions of Indiana, California, New Mexico, New Jersey, Colorado, Massachusetts, Florida, Virginia, Michigan, Missouri, and Texas. From 1940 until 1944, Sr. Miriam taught the Novices, Child Psychology, Catechetics and Liturgy. She obtained her Master of Arts Degree in Theology from Boston College. In her own words, she speaks of her varied missionary life: "I've. . .taught classes of all sizes and ages, taken parish census in English and Spanish, directed choirs and accompanied on little reed organs or big three-deckers, helped stage the children's parties and programs, taught novice classes, staffed diocesan resource offices, been in migrant programs and attended national directors' meetings." Sr. Miriam was also one of a group of OLVM'S who wrote, produced, and appeared in a T.V. Program, presented as a public service by a New Bedford, Mass. station, which was geared to pre-school children and their parents. The Program lasted for three years.

Sr. Miriam returned to Victory Noll from Lubbock, Texas where she spent eight years in the Diocesan Religious Education Office there, and also in Amarillo. Amarillo was in the northern

part of the Diocese and Lubbock in the southern part. Lubbock became a Diocese in 1983 and Sr. Miriam stayed there as there were so many poor in the area. At Victory Noll, Sr. Miriam became the Director of Communications, and published the paper, "News and Views." She held that position for four years and then after a sabbatical and a year in East Chicago, she joined the secretarial staff which included being secretary to the Administrator at VN. Since 1977, Sister has spent long hours on the Constitution Committee (now the Constitution Task Force). In late years, Sr. Miriam has also been a member of the National Migrant Worker Council.

Sr. Miriam is survived by her sister, Rosemary Beales of Hyattsville, Md. Helen and Leonard preceded her in death. Rosemary stayed at Victory Noll and visited Sister each day. Michael and his fiancée Sara Goodrum, and Katherine Doyle (Leonard's family) arrived Tuesday evening for the funeral. We were so happy that they were here with Rosemary.

The wake was held on Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in Memorial Chapel. The Sisters from her Support Group led the wake service and did the readings. Rosemary placed a bouquet of flowers by the casket after Sr. Callista had read a paragraph on the symbolism of 'seed' and 'flowers.' The service ended with De Montfort's hymn to our Blessed Mother.

The Liturgy of Christian Burial was celebrated by Father Jim Hast, OFM, Cap. Srs. Mary Cecilia, Priscilla and Clarice were Cross and Candle Bearers; Frances and Mary Rita placed the pall on the casket; Rose Elizabeth and Janet Michels did the readings; Germaine sang the Responsorial; Joan offered the intercessions; Michael Doyle, Sara Goodrum, and Katherine Doyle brought up the gifts. Srs. Rita Musante gave the homily and Martha the tribute to Sr. Miriam.

Sr. Rita said she believed that Miriam's choice of songs and Scripture were her homily to us! "That from the richness of God's living Word, living in her life among us and now from heaven, she speaks to us: Keep in Mind, dear family, dear friends, dear Sisters, that all we experience of God's presence, and activity and love, and all we can say about our experience are ONLY A SHADOW of the reality!" "With Miriam as our teacher and guide, let us look at what Isaiah experienced of God and what he said. . . Isaiah reminds me of . . . and all who were involved in the politics of the day as Isaiah was, in advising kings, warning against military alliances, etc. and whose mystic experience of God stretched their minds and hearts beyond a narrow nationalism to a universal vision of humankind." She read the universal vision of Isaiah. Sr. Rita summed up her beautiful reflections by referring to Ps. 42 which Miriam chose as the Responsorial. (Isaiah 25:6.7-9) (1 John 3:1-2) (John 6:37-40)

Sr. Martha began her tribute by saying that Sr. Miriam respected, revered and loved words. She used words well, at our Chapter meetings, composing and editing our publications, and helping to formulate the Constitutions. Several months ago, Sr. Martha asked Sr. Miriam, "What is your primary choice in life at this time?" Sr. Miriam responded: "To use my writing skills to educate and inform." ". . . Sr. Miriam's keen mind probed deeply into political issues. While the rest of us surrendered to the complexity and settled for voting in the light of the issue, Sr. Miriam was agonizing over the 'Seamless Garment of Justice.'" ". . . All who have ever lived with Sr. Miriam tell stories of her practical response to justice. The poor in Lubbock knew that if they could not afford to pay an organist for the funeral, Sr. Miriam would always be there to do the honors." Sr. Martha ended her lovely tribute by reading 1 John 3:1-2 and asking her listeners to hear Sr. Miriam speaking it to us.

Sister Mary Louise said the prayers of Commendation after the Liturgy. Many of us walked to the cemetery. the day was nice but a bit chilly. Sr. Mary Joan did drive several Sisters from Holy Family to the gravesite in the golf-cart. That small car is such a blessing. Now, those who find it impossible to walk can also participate in the graveside services.

How necessary to keep in mind that all we experience of God's presence here and now, is only a shadow of all that is yet to be. How grateful we are for the reflection of God's wonderful love which has shone so clearly though Sr. Miriam's dedication and service to this Congregation! Now she knows! Now, she beholds the wonderful reality of the LIVING GOD! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,

Sister Germaine Stadler
Sister Germaine Stadler, olvm