

May 5, 1997



Dear Sisters:

Morning had just broken Friday, April 25, 1997, when Sister Mary Ellen Dooley left this life after much suffering and entered into everlasting life. Sister Joan Arnold was with her. Sisters had been with her several days and nights.

Sister Mary Ellen was born August 26, 1913 in Salamanca, New York to Richard Henry and Blanche (Field) Dooley. Both parents are deceased. She is also preceded in death by four brothers: George, Jeremiah, Henry and Richard Dooley; and one sister, Irene (Dooley) Schaefer. George and Jeremiah died as infants. Survivors are a sister-in-law Dorothy Dooley of Little Valley, New York and nieces and nephews.

Sister Mary Ellen was accompanied to Victory No11 on the train by Marcella Poydock, a friend. Sister entered Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters October 29, 1943. Marcella returned to her home in New York, resigned from her work and packed. She was accepted into the same class with her friend in January.

Sister ministered in our mission centers in California, Texas, Oklahoma, New Jersey, Colorado, Michigan, Kentucky and Arizona. She was religious education teacher and nurse. She returned in 1985 to join the nursing staff at Holy Family Health Care Center. Besides nursing sister Mary Ellen's duties included driving, diet trays, sewing and dining room care. We have a "Dedication to Sister Mary Ellen Dooley" by Rebecca Kistler, a co-worker in Holy Family. It closes:

"Thank you for all you gave to us  
and peace be with you  
as you meet the heavenly host.  
And of all the things you gave to us  
Your friendship meant the most."

This piece of poetry shows us Sister's life has continued to touch other lives very closely even after the mission fields.

The wake Sunday evening opened with "You Are God's Work of Art" and closed with an invitation to share a memory. With love, tributes were given of humor and real life in community with Sister Mary Ellen. Then we sang "We Walk By Faith."

None of the family were able to come for the funeral. Her classmates, Sisters Mary Ruth Kramer and Marcella Poydock were present.

Father Fahey presided at the Liturgy of Christian Burial. Father's homily helped us perceive God receiving Sister Mary Ellen as God will receive us one day, joyous, in spite of our faults.

Sister Mary Ellen was laid to rest after the final commendation.

Sister Mary Ellen will be missed from our presence here at Victory Noll. May our prayers go with her and may we be remembered by her. God rest you, Sister.

Sincerely yours,

*Sr. Marjorie Curran*  
General Secretary