



**SISTER JOAN ARNOLD, OLV M**, 97, died peacefully on June 6, 2022, at Saint Anne Communities at Victory Noll in Huntington, Indiana.

Sister Joan was born in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, on September 12, 1924, to Herbert Arnold and Beatrice Mahoney Arnold. She was baptized Joan Mary on September 21, 1924, at Saint Mary's Church of the Assumption in Lebanon, a church that would continue to be a part of her life until her death. Sister Joan had three brothers, Herbert Arnold, Jr., John Arnold, and Fredrick Arnold, and five sisters, Mary Elizabeth Brown, Louise Hughes, Rita Woolly, Eleanore McCann and Helen Bozzo. Her sisters Eleanore and Helen survive her, as do many nieces and nephews.

As a young girl, Sister Joan was intrigued with the life of a missionary. Her grandfather received the Maryknoll mission magazine and she eagerly looked forward to reading the interesting stories of missionaries from around the world, especially in China. She thought it would be great to teach children about Jesus. Her childhood zeal gave way to other interests, and she forgot about being a missionary. After graduating from high school, Sr. Joan worked for an insurance company. She soon realized this was not what she wanted to do with the rest of her life. Speaking to her pastor, the idea of a becoming a missionary once again started to stir, and she decided to join the Maryknoll Missionaries. She was too late to join in the class of 1948, as the fall class was full. Disappointed, her pastor gave her another pamphlet, "An All-American Girl" from Victory Noll. She wrote and received an invitation for the fall class. In the letter of reference from her pastor, he wrote of Sister Joan's work with the Lebanon Catholic radio forum. "I have seen the untiring zeal which she has displayed for this work. It bears witness for her love and respect of all things Catholic." In the summer of 1948, she met Sister Geraldine Kirkessner, also a Pennsylvania girl, who was on her home visit before going to her first mission as a Victory Noll Sister. After talking with Sister Geraldine and learning more about Victory Noll, Sister Joan was eager to get there and begin her training.

Sister Joan entered the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters on October 27, 1948, and made first vows on August 5, 1951. She served in the states in Texas, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, and West Virginia. Sister served at Victory Noll as the General Treasurer from 1968 to 1977 and as Vice President of the Leadership Team from 1984 to 1992. She assisted in the finance department before becoming the Social Justice Coordinator for the community. Even in her retirement she always encouraged everyone to know the issues and vote. She never lost her zeal.

Sr. Mary Louise Rowney served with Sister Joan in Leadership and wrote this tribute: “Our Sister, Joan Arnold, was a moral factor, a moral force in our community and in our world. Sister Joan used her keen mind and business sense and ability to develop strategies of responsible stewardship and corporate responsibility that would serve us through the years. She spent long hours studying and doing research to inform her decisions. She had a passion for peace and justice and was well-aware of the world’s needs, of human needs.”

Fear of criticism or loss of status or personal comfort never kept Sister Joan from speaking out, especially if she felt there was an insight to be shared, a truth to be told, or value to be recognized and acted upon. She brought these valuable gifts to the Leadership Team, finance department and with her involvement in creating our Community Support Trust.

Sister Mary Louise went on to say, “Sister Joan was a true friend who enjoyed a good laugh, a relaxing game of Scrabble or cards, and baked ‘melt-in-your-mouth’ mint brownies. But most of all, Sister Joan was a woman of humility who was a true moral force for human dignity, responsible investment, corporate responsibility, and stewardship and care of our environment.”

On her Golden Jubilee, Sister Joan wrote: “I expected to be a great missionary, bringing the Word of God to many people. Instead, my many years at Victory Noll and not in the mission field made me realize that God was calling me to use my gifts (for finance and business) in this way.”

The congregation gathered on June 9, 2022, to celebrate the life of Sister Joan with a vigil service, and then on June 10, 2022, for the Eucharistic Celebration. Her nieces Karen and Annette were able to be with us for both services and her nephew John joined us for the funeral.

Sister Joan was a missionary in her heart and lived out her life bringing the Word of God to many, whether through teaching or in her many years of congregational service.

With gratitude and blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sr. Ginger Downey OLVM". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sr. Ginger Downey, OLVM