



**SISTER ANGELINE WALCZYK, OLVM**, 91, a resident of Heritage Pointe in Warren, Indiana, died peacefully the morning of August 2, 2025. The Sisters, as well as the nurses, hospice chaplain and Father Tony Steinacker, had visited and prayed with her, accompanying her on this last part of her earthly journey.

Sister Angeline was born in Brush, Colorado, on December 22, 1933, to Paul and Clara (Bartsch) Walczyk. She was the ninth of 12 children, and is preceded in death by five brothers, Anton, Sylvester, Emil, Paul, and Lukus; and three sisters, Mary Ann Green, Clara Lowman and Pauline Frenzl. Surviving are one sister, Cecilia Kalous of Woodrow, Colorado; two brothers, Frank of North Pole, Alaska, and Herman of Longmont, Colorado; nieces and nephews, and her Victory Noll Sisters with whom she lived and served 74 years.

Angeline entered the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters on September 6, 1951, and made first vows on August 5, 1954. She served creatively and passionately in the missions of New Mexico, Texas, Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona, California and Indiana. Sister Angeline returned to Victory Noll in 2014 to volunteer in various ways.

Sister Angeline's ministry calls were varied throughout her life. When she was a CNA at a Fort Wayne hospital a few blocks from where she lived, she would sing as she walked to work: "Oh, what a beautiful morning, oh, what a beautiful day. I've got a wonderful feeling everything's going God's way."

"God's way" in the 1970's included being an early promoter and teacher of Natural Family Planning with the people who came to our clinic in Tucson, Arizona. When she lived and served in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in what was then called the "War Zone" because of drugs and crime, she would arm herself with parish bulletins and her warm smile, and go home visiting! This was one of her favorite ministries because she was thus able to get acquainted with the people and invite them to Mass and other activities at the church.

Around her 75<sup>th</sup> birthday, she decided to go to Rome to discuss women's ordination with the Pope! Why should we be surprised? When she was a young child, her family had to drive 30 miles to the nearest church. One Sunday, the severe weather prevented that drive so she "had mass" at home for her family, with a tablecloth on the ironing board and candy wafers!

Our annual retreats as Victory Noll Sisters were important to her. She wrote, “Today’s world calls for a variety of retreat forms, places and times of silence/solitude.” Consequently, for several years she attended an annual retreat weekend at Fort Benning, Georgia. Led by a peace activist priest, this retreat included training for and demonstration in protest of The School of the Americas which taught guerilla tactics blatantly contrary to the Gospel.

One year she was inspired to make a cross-country “bus retreat” from California to Victory Noll and back again, taking with her only her missalette and her copy of our Constitutions. She wrote that her retreat director would be the Holy Spirit, who would speak through the people who rode with her on the bus, the bus driver, and Creation. Her themes for each day were: the Face of God, the Voice of God, the Smell of God, the Beauty of God, the Visitation (for her few days at Victory Noll where she visited with the Sisters), St. Mary Magdalene (on her feast day), and, the final day, in her words, “raptured thanks.”

In a reflection on her life some years ago Angeline wrote: “It was at a New Year’s dance, I remember! I had danced every dance! As the clock struck 12, the dancers paused for refreshments. The young man wanted to serve me refreshments. I had to refuse, urged by a voice from within. I had planned to receive Holy Communion in the morning. (This was when church law said to fast from midnight in order to receive Holy Communion.) My admirer did not understand, yet I felt at peace with my decision...That NO had a powerful unconscious effect on other decisions I would have to make, other NO’s I would say. Life became a conscious dance between positive and negative factors. Surprising enough the decision to become a Sister seemed to be rather natural...The call to be a Victory Noll Sister has been a call to experience hills and valleys, hurts and healings, sinning and repenting, forgetting and forgiving, the NO’s and YES’s which spell GROWTH through GIVING in the never-ending dance with the Lord.” We are grateful, Sr. Angeline, for your faithfulness to the dance of your life!

At the conclusion of her bus retreat Sister Angeline wrote, “O Holy Spirit, I embrace the time of death to new life with You.” Now, dear Angeline, you have done this! We are grateful for the witness of your life among us as we pray that you may now be experiencing the fulness of God’s joy and peace with all the saints and angels forever.

With Blessings and Gratitude,

*Sister Rita Musante*

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