

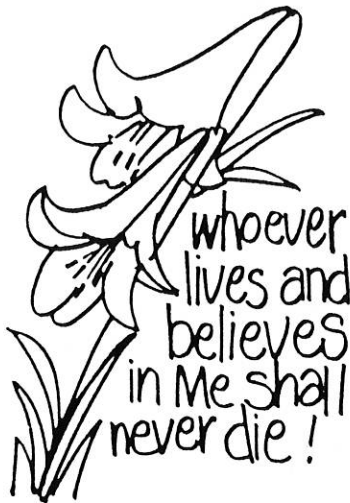
RUTH BANET

October 27, 1986

Victory Noll

Huntington, Indiana

October 31, 1986



Dear Sisters and Associates

This morning with the celebration of the Liturgy of Christian Burial, we gathered in faith, hope and love to bring the body of Sister Ruth Banet to final rest land to give thanks to the Father for the reflection of his love manifested in this joyous religious who loved life, lived it with zest and the ability to appreciate its funny side.

These past nine months have been difficult ones for Sister Ruth, her family and for us. To see someone who is in the peak of her ministry, stricken with a terminal illness is difficult to accept. It brings us to consider the true purpose of our life as religious. Certainly, Sister Ruth considered that and gave herself completely in faith and confidence to what God was asking of her. Her death is the beginning of her new life in Christ Jesus.

Sister Ruth was born December 17, 1930 in Fort Wayne and attended St. Paul's grade school and Central Catholic high school. She received her B.A. degree in Theology from St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer.

Sister Ruth entered the Congregation from St. Paul's parish October 27, 1949 and made first profession of vows August 5, 1952 at Victory Noll. Her death occurred on the 37th anniversary of her entrance into the Congregation.

Sister Ruth ministered in New Jersey, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Missouri, Michigan, South America, Arizona, California and Texas. Sister worked in the missions of Oruro and Buena Vista from 1968 until 1976. She was Formation Director in Buena Vista from 1974 until 1976. Sister spent eight years as DRE in her brother's parish of St. Peter Claver in Houston and went to Mathis in January of 1984. She was DRE in Sacred Heart parish in Mathis when she became ill.

Sister Ruth is survived by her brothers, Father Paul, S.S.J. of St. Brigid's parish in Los Angeles, Father Charles, C.P.P.S. of St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer and Lawrence of Fort Wayne; her sisters, Sister Mary Laura, P.H.J.C. of Donaldson, Indiana and Mrs. Victorine Malsbury of Opa Locka, Florida. Her sister, Mrs. Mary Ellen Harris preceded her in death in 1985. Sister Ruth spent several months with Mary Ellen in 1985 when she was so ill with bone cancer.

A Memorial Service was held at St. Peter Claver Church in Houston. Participating were Father Thomas Frank, pastor, Father Paul Banet, Sister Eva Maria Sanchez and Sister Angela Marzen. The body was then brought to Victory Noll on Thursday at 5:00 p.m. where we formed an honor guard into the chapel and then prayed the Office of the Dead.

The wake was held in Memorial Chapel at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday with all the family members and many relatives and friends present.

The Liturgy of Christian Burial was concelebrated on Friday, October 31, with Father Charles, C.P.P.S., Father Paul, S.S.J., Father Tom Frank, S.S.J., Father Dominic Gerlach, C.P.P.S., Father James Kelly, C.P.P.S., Father Oliver Bambanek, O.F.M. Capuchin and Rev. Robbie Banet, permanent deacon. Father Leonard Fullenkamp, C.P.P.S., of St. Charles Seminary in Carthagena, Ohio was present but not concelebrating. Brothers Edward Habrowski and Terrence Nufer were also present.

The family took an active part in the liturgy. Vicky, Larry with his wife Joan

placed the pall on the casket, Sister Laura did the first reading, Sister Carmen sang the responsorial psalm, Father Tom did the second reading, Father Charles shared his thoughts, and Sister Beatrice Haines offered the prayers of petition with Father Paul giving the concluding prayer. Offering the gifts were members of Larry's family, Steve, Matt and Laura Johnson, Vicky's daughter, Annie David and Mary Ellen's daughters, Connie Weir and Margie Harris.

Father Charles did not give a eulogy or homily as such, rather, he tried to draw from the experience of death, a meaning for all present. In part, he said, "Coping in faith with suffering produces strength of character. This does not make it any less painful, but it is not wasted and prepares the sick person for a future that is one she accepts and chooses, rather than one she detests and resents. Suffering that is not accepted is a waste and destructive. Suffering that is accepted can lead to profit and be a real contribution to the task of preserving and developing the nobility of the human person.

"Sister Ruth Suffered long and she who has died in peace and with dignity, has lived the Gospel. Her funeral is a celebration of the power and grace of God, and a dramatic message to all of how to be truly human, and how to rise to the challenge of illness in ways that are enriching and life-giving, and above all a proclamation that the human being's real life is with God in eternal happiness. From illness accepted with human dignity we all learn to live in the perspective of God's kingdom.

"All she ever wanted was what her heart and soul were straining for since the day she put on the robe of a postulant here at this place 37 years ago this week - to let go and let Jesus come. That coming was a daily event in the life of Sister Ruth. Her end was a daily beginning. Death was not the coming of a stranger from afar, but an intimate companion, who took her by the hand and said, 'Arise, make haste my love, my dove, my beautiful one and come. The winter is over and gone; the flowers have appeared in our land, and the time for singing has come'. (Song of Songs)"

Sister Mary Louise Rowney led the prayers of commendation and prefaced them with her thoughts of Ruth of the Old Testament and likening her to Sister Ruth who also "summoned by love, set aside all that defined her and came into a new land." Today is somber and beautiful. Somber because we mourn Sister Ruth's departure from our midst; beautiful because in the Eucharist we celebrate our unity with Ruth who died in faith and our unity with the Lord of Life whose death and resurrection inspires our faith with hope and assures us that no barrier of time or space can diminish the love that is shared.

There were probably one hundred or more guests at the Mass including the relatives and friends of the family including the many religious of Sister Laura's Community, the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ from Donaldson, Fort Wayne and the surrounding areas. Most of the guests went to the cemetery for the graveside prayers and then stayed for dinner.

Our own Sisters from around the area who were present for the Mass and dinner were, Sisters Carolyn and Mary Ruth from Coldwater, Ohio; Sisters Mary Ellen, Grace Marie and Beatrice from Chicago; Sisters Marie and Antoinette from East Chicago; Sister Mary from Newark, Ohio and Sisters Gabriel and Mary Eileen from Fort Wayne. Sister Mary Eileen and Mary arrived in time for the Wake services on Thursday.

We thank you, Sister Ruth for the example of your faithfulness and the final "yes" of your discipleship which speaks of your faith, love and loyalty to Christ Jesus and his Blessed Mother. Pray for us as we continue our struggle and live our daily "dyings" in faith and trust that we may be willing to "let go" when He calls us into LIFE through the mystery of death.

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,

Sister Germaine Stadler, O.S.U.
Sister Germaine Stadler, olvm