

October 15, 1993.

Dear Sisters and Associates:

"You are Gift" - familiar words from our recent Assembly came to mind at the wake Tuesday evening, as Sisters and friends of Sister Gabriel Wathen came to remember her, who had touched their lives. Sisters and friends affirmed this theme as they witnessed to how the quietness, the gratefulness, the gentleness and the smile of Sister had inspired them. A friend, of Fort Wayne, shared her observation of Sister from some years ago, so quietly and consistently at work. Impressed with this zeal, she resigned her work as a school teacher, studied at St. Meinrad's and became seriously involved in Religious Education. Sister Beaty gave a meaningful conclusion to this time of reflection - "We are appreciative of Sister's Gift of Life among us".



Sister Gabriel returned to Victory Noll early this year. She was not feeling well and about a month ago the doctor gave little or no hope for her recovery from the cancer they had found. She died October 11 at 12:10 p.m. Sister Mary Magdalen Heim and Shirley Lightner, the nurse, were with her.

Sister Gabriel Wathen was born March 25, 1907, at Equality, Illinois, the daughter of Cecil and Josephine Wathen. She entered the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters on July 14, 1927. She made profession of first vows on August 15, 1929. She celebrated the Diamond Jubilee with her class at Victory Noll on August 5, 1987. Pictures of Sister and her classmates at the time of this celebration, a picture taken with them this past summer and pictures of Sister at her work during the years were on the bulletin board in her memory.

Sister Gabriel has had assignments to Nevada, Utah, Missouri, Iowa, Colorado, Ohio, Michigan, Kansas and Indiana, working at various times in the fields of Religious Education, Outreach to Elderly, Persons with Developmental Disabilities, and as Companion to the Elderly.

The parents and two sisters preceded Sister Gabriel in death. Two sisters survive, Rosemary Oettinger of Columbia Falls, Montana and Velma Wiltshire of Equality, Illinois.

None of the family was able to attend the funeral. The wake service was held in Victory Noll temporary Chapel. Sisters Judy, Martha and Rose Zita came for that. The Liturgy of Eucharist was offered at 10:30 Wednesday morning. Sisters Grace, Rita and a friend, Clara Erilsh, and Helen Eisenhauer were with us. Father Fahey offered the Mass and his inspiring homily was beautiful. Father, Sisters Grace, and Rita, Helen and Clara joined us for dinner after the burial.



Sister Gabriel had a very reflective note she had written recently in her book:

"Every day I thank God for my vocation, surrounded by my Sisters, called as I am. We find security at Victory Noll."

May Sister Gabriel and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

In Christ's Peace,

*Sister Marjorie  
Curran*