



April 2, 2001

Dear Sisters:

The quiet, zealous life of Sister Frances Meyer came to a close on this earth Wednesday morning, March 28, 2001. Soon after eating her breakfast she was taken to her room by a nurse. Just minutes later she was found taking her last breath. She entered eternity as peacefully as she lived.

Sister Frances was born October 9, 1904, in California, Ohio, to Frank A. and Agnes (Koehler) Meyer. She entered Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters congregation February 5, 1927 and made first vows in the community March 25, 1929. Survivors include: one sister, Sister Mary Laetitia Meyers, OSF, of Oldenburg, Indiana; two nephews, Michael Meyer of St. Bernard, Ohio and Gery Meyer of Cincinnati, Ohio. She was preceded in death by her parents; one brother, Frank Meyer, Jr.; and one sister, Margaret Meyer.

Sister ministered in Anton Chico, New Mexico; Redlands and Santa Paula, California; Salt Lake City, Utah; San Antonio, Mathis, and Lubbock, Texas. Those years of ministry were happy years for Sister. It seemed she could always be reminded of Anton Chico or another of the first missions. Her stories were interesting and revealed her trust and assurance in Jesus and Mary. These are some of the many stories she has typed and saved.

"Talking of travels to our missions: we drove on earth roads formed only by wagons or cars driving over them. When the tracks made by the car wheels wore down too far, the center of the car would scrape on the earth. One day we were returning from Pintata, a small village thirty miles from Anton Chico. We were on the prairie with no people, no houses, no building in sight, nothing but a sheep corral. Suddenly the car refused to move. We did everything we knew to get it started, but to no avail. We walked over to the corral but the shepherd had no knowledge of cars. We were about thirty-four miles from home. Should we walk the six miles back to Pintata or wait and hope someone would come by? One of us got the idea of trying to move in reverse. This worked and for nineteen miles we rode in reverse over a straddled road. You can imagine how our necks felt! Nearing Anton Chico I said to my companion, 'We can't drive in reverse through Anton Chico.' We waited a while and then tried going forward again. It worked! So we slowly drove the remainder of the way home. The only mechanic in town was unable to fix the car. We had to drive to Las Vegas the following day at ten miles an hour over dirt roads."

"I lived in Anton Chico during the years of the depression. The people always lived in poverty, they had small farms, some had a few sheep. At one time during the depression we lived through a drought. The sheep had nothing to graze on and the government sent a group of people to kill the sheep and another group to set up a cannery. The people were asked to go out to a large corral and request as many sheep as they wished. The sheep were brought to the cannery and the meat prepared and canned. We were all grateful for the meat."

"Today Anton Chico has advanced with the times. It has electric lights, running water, gas and electric heating. It has ice cream and other goodies now. The people still live a simple life in the lonely town where the Church is still the center and where God's love reigns."

Sister Frances continued to help improve conditions in religious education and social conditions where she was missioned. In spite of the technology changing our living and learning, there were health problems and natural disasters which meant people were hungry, homeless, and disabled in need. Sister returned to Victory Noll in 1987 to retire and minister in the tape department to fill the orders of Sisters in the missions.

The Wake for Sister Frances was Thursday evening, March 29. It was a beautiful service. As it was about to close those present were invited to share a memory, tribute, story about Sister's companionship with us these seventy-four years. Much love, respect and appreciation was shown in the accounts that were shared.

Sister Laetitia, Meyer families, and Franciscan Sisters of Oldenburg arrived Friday morning for the Liturgy of Christian Burial. Sister's choices for music were On the Day When the Radiant Star, I Am the Bread of Life, How Great Thou Art. It was touching to participate in the liturgy of singing, readings, rendering of Ave Maria by violin/organ, Father's homily, and prayer for/with Sister Frances.

A tornado, earth roads, disasters, lack of electricity, water and air conditioners, you weathered it all, Sister Frances, and smiled until the end. Thank you.

Sincerely

Sister Marjorie

Sister Marjorie Curran
General Secretary