



SISTER CHRISTOPHER RUDELL, OLV, 97, a resident of Heritage Pointe, Warren, died peacefully August 1, 2025. She was anointed by Fr. Tony Steinecker. She was able to respond to Sisters who visited her before her death.

Sister Christopher was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on March 14, 1928, to Anthony and Margaret (Parr) Rudell. She is preceded in death by five brothers, Bernard, Leonard, Charles and twins, Edward and Joseph Rudell and three sisters, Mary Starkey, Ann Starkey and Dorothy Rudell. Surviving are two brothers, Martin Rudell of New Park, Penn., and James Rudell of Baltimore.

Sister Christopher entered the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters on September 6, 1953, and made first vows on August 5, 1956. According to a classmate, Sister was the second oldest of their Class. She served in the missions in Massachusetts, California, Michigan, Florida, Arizona and Indiana. Sister returned to Victory Noll in June 2010 to serve as sacristan/mail delivery.

Sister Christopher told this story in the “Sisters’ Stories” about her experience of being called to religious life:

For 10 years I went to Catholic School, 8 years in grade school and 2 years in Commercial. During that time, I felt no call to Religious Life. In fact, whenever asked if I had a religious vocation, I would vehemently deny it.

I started working at age fifteen. I learned that many people with whom I came into contact suffered many family disputes, physical ailments, and much emotional anguish. I realized how gentle God had been with me and how He had blessed my life. A seed was planted in my heart to thank Him for His great love and care. But how could I give Him my life in a special way?

As I was working, I decided to get a High School Education. At one of the classes, the teacher stated she was not Catholic and asked what the “Incarnation” was. A Catholic high school girl answered that it meant Jesus went to heaven with His human body. I was shocked that a Catholic could not answer this simple question correctly. The realization that some Catholics did not know the wonders and blessings of their faith left me with a desire to tell them what they were missing. A second seed is sown in my heart.

During World War II a recruiting poster showed Uncle Sam pointing at the viewer, saying, “I want you!” This was in the vestibule of the Church, and it spoke to me in a religious sense: God calling me.

Finally, I saw the Our Sunday Visitor advertisement for the Victory Noll Sisters, and I wrote for information. It seemed to answer all the promptings

God had placed in my heart and the messages I received in my life's journey.
So, I entered Victory Noll.

Sister Christopher was an avid reader of many interests. If you were at her table during meals, she would share what she read which could be from newspapers, magazines, Church Bulletin or books. One of her favorite poems that she often shared, was Edgar Allan Poe's "Annabel Lee" which she would recite without skipping a word or stanza. She would also share part of her meal with those at her table and would sometimes ask for an extra cookie to give to someone later. Sister liked to crochet lap throws which she gave away as fund raisers for parishes.

Her ministry as a nurse had been in Florida and Indiana. When she went to Arizona she assisted Sister Alma Bill in the Religious Education Program at St. Agnes Parish in Phoenix. She was very helpful in many of the activities there.

When living at Saint Anne at Victory Noll, she watched EWTN. She prayed the rosary daily with the station and had her morning devotions that she wanted to have with the station. One time she told several sisters about the soon-to-be teenage saint Carlos Acutis, who is known for his devotion to the Eucharist. When asked for prayers for some person or situation, she readily agreed.

Sister's niece, Donna Maria Friedman and her husband Scott of Hanahan, South Carolina came to the Vigil/Vespers, Funeral and burial. Donna shared that when she thinks of Sister, "I like to think she was a sweet aroma pleasing to God the Father. She was so in love with Jesus; she gave willingly all she could to serve him. As a Victory Noll Sister she was able to do just that, touching on the lives of many. Sister taught her brothers Martin and James how to bake bread, and they always enjoyed the stories about their shore home in Baltimore where the family prayed together." Donna admired Sister's sacrifice and unconditional love for God and the Church. "I think I can speak for all her nieces and nephews and brothers when I say that Sister has been living as a reflection of Jesus her whole Life. We will always remember her love of neighbor and God."

We are grateful, Sr. Christopher, for your faithful service in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus. We rejoice that you now share with all the Saints, eternal life with God.

With Blessings and Gratitude,

Sister Lucy Regalado, OLV M

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