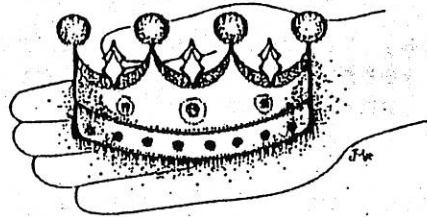


*You shall be a
crown of beauty
in the hand of God,*



May 17, 2000

Dear Sisters:

As we were singing Alleluias and Easter hymns during Mass in Chapel the second week of Easter Season, Sister Catherine Marie Ganse was entering Eternal Life. Sister Catherine Marie died at Victory Noll May 5, 2000 about 11:15 in the morning. She had been failing for several months.

Sister Catherine Marie Ganse was born November 4, 1905 to John M. and Christina (Kirchner) Ganse in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. She is preceded in death by her parents, four sisters and two brothers. Survivors in the family include: two sisters, Sister Agnes Ganse, of Victory Noll; Gertrude A. Helfrich of Lancaster; and one brother, Bernard G. Ganse of Hershey, Pennsylvania. Sister graduated from St. Joseph's parochial school in Lancaster and was working in an office as billing clerk.

Sister entered Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters congregation February 9, 1929. The community was only seven years old at that time and it was known as Victory Training Institute. The new postulants would be in classes here for three years. Sister was professed August 15, 1932.

Her missionary activities began in Indiana Harbor, Indiana. From there she had ministered in other missions of Indiana as well as the fields of California, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kansas, New Jersey, Arizona and Michigan.

Over the years Sister's titles have varied. She was printer in the printing office at Victory Noll. She would have been very familiar with our Missionary Catechist. She was also secretary at one time and receptionist at another and would have opened the door to many friends, relatives and newcomers to the congregation. She was a volunteer to visit senior citizens in Huntington and was presented with a special award from Miller's Merry Manor, Individual Volunteer of the Year. Her goodness and talents have been

recognized as she served. Maybe that is why Sister Gertrude Salitrik could say, "I liked how Sister always said 'Thank you, Sister' and meant it. I liked the way she said it."

Sister Mary Joan Ginsterblum says, "I had a special relationship with Sister Catherine Marie the years I cared for her in physical therapy. I appreciated her trust in me. When asked how she felt she always said, 'I could be better.'"

Sister Antoinette Golabowski shared with us a meeting with Sister Catherine Marie: "I visited our convent in South Bend many years ago. Sister Catherine Marie was the superior. She greeted me very graciously and was very patient in answering my many questions." Sister Antoinette was checking with the community prior to entering.

The body of Sister Catherine Marie was brought to Victory Noll Sunday afternoon and rosary was prayed at 4:30.

Wake service for Sister was in the evening. Her brother, Bernard and sister, Gertrude; niece, Donna Finnicle and friend, Marilyn Hostetlar had arrived and joined us. The lighted Easter Candle and Alleluia hymns lent a resurrection atmosphere.

The Liturgy of Christian Burial was at 10:30 Monday morning presided by Father Thomas Fahey. Sister's choices for the music were: I Have Loved You, Song of Songs, Here Am I, Lord, Ave Maria, I Am The Bread Of Life and On Eagles' Wings. Her brother, sisters, and niece participated in the liturgy.

Many of us walked to the resting place of our Sister Catherine Marie. The day was very pleasant with spring crispness. Father Fahey blessed the grave, the casket and led us in prayer.

"Thank you, Sister." We mean it too. Your deeds have touched our lives. Remember us to Jesus and Mary.

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,

Sister Marjorie
Sister Marjorie Curran
General Secretary