



August 24, 1998

Softly and still  
as night comes stealing  
We sing our vesper lay  
Silv'ry chimes of eve are pealing  
It is the end of day.  
From: Parting Hymn at wake

Dear Sisters:

On Saturday evening, August 8, we heard the announcement that Sister Mary Camillus spisak died at 7:00 o'clock. It was the end of day, the end of the week and the end of this busy life on earth. Sister had gone to hear "silv'ry chimes" in eternity.

Sister Mary Camillus was diagnosed with cancer about a year ago. She was doing well and this-spring came to Victory Noll for a mission group meeting. She enjoyed her time with the Sisters and she provided entertainment they will be remembering for a long time. So it was surprising to hear in June, that Sister Mary Camillus was very ill with a recurrence of cancer. Sister Lucy Regalado and Sister Priscilla Wilke drove to Sedalia, Missouri where Sister had been caring for her sister, Margaret Thomas. The Sisters brought her to Victory Noll June 25 to be cared for in Holy Family Health Care Center. Sister was very weak and was in the hospital a few days where they found she also had a fractured hip. Since coming to Victory Noll she had not responded well but had been quiet and seemed at peace.

Sister Mary Camillus was born in Boothton, Alabama August 24, 1915 to Edward J. and Clara (Yuska) Spisak. Both parents are deceased. She attended Our Lady of the Angels High School, St. Bernard's Ohio, and was taught by Franciscan Priests and Sisters.

Sister entered Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters Congregation February 19, 1934. She made first vows February 11, 1937. She joyfully anticipated her mission appointment.

She was missioned to Indiana Harbor and East Chicago, Indiana and San Pedro, California. Sister enrolled in Holy Angels Hospital nurses' training program in Los Angeles a few years later and in 1945 graduated as a registered nurse.

A clinic was opening in Brawley, California the next year and Sister Mary Camillus was assigned to the staff. After some years she was assigned to help open a clinic in San Diego.

Sister was asked to care for Sister Benedict Joseph LeBlanc in Montclair and Redlands, California. In 1961 Sister was asked to be on the staff which would open St. Elizabeth of Hungary Clinic in Tucson, Arizona. She has described her ministry as simply caring for God's people and getting doctors to do the same.

For her Golden Jubilee in the Congregation she wrote: "In summary my life is indeed a story of a journey always coming and going for the sake of the sick poor. I come to the clinic each morning and leave each evening bearing a vision of hope that hearts were touched, lives were changed. He in me, made a difference."

In 1991 Sister retired and continued volunteering her service as a registered nurse part time.

As a Diamond Jubilarian we find poetry she had written for some different occasions in her life compiled into a neat booklet. This is the entry on the last page:

"Lord, You are the potter, I am the clay  
I give this vessel to You this day.  
It's rough with age, yet diamond filled,  
overflowing with love, vowed and sealed."

Sister was preceded in death by four brothers: Steve, William George, Edward Spisak and two sisters Julia Russell and Clarice Spisak.

One sister survives: Margaret Thomas of Sedalia, Missouri. She was unable to attend the funeral.

The wake for Sister Mary Camillus was in Memorial Chapel August 11. Twenty nieces and nephews from Michigan, Missouri and Tennessee arrived Tuesday and Wednesday to attend the funeral.

The Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated by Father Thomas Fahey Wednesday morning. The music and singing were beautiful and Father's homily inspiring.

May we always remember the joy Sister has spread among us and also remember her in prayer.

It was a pleasure to meet the family and to have them to dinner with us.

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,

*Sister Marjorie Curran*  
Sister Marjorie Curran  
General Secretary