

August 31, 2001

Dear Sisters and Associates:

"In the presence of God, Our Father and Our Lord Jesus Christ, my Brother, and this Community, I renew my vows in context with my mission as expressed in Luke, Chapter 4.

The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
Sister Lurlien McCoy:

- to bring good news to the poor and live my Vow of Poverty
- to proclaim liberty to those held captive by guilt and past hurts,
- to give sight to those who want to see the light of Christ and truly listen to God by my Vow of Obedience,
- to set the downtrodden free,
- to proclaim the Lord's year of favor as I love all through my Vow of Celibacy,

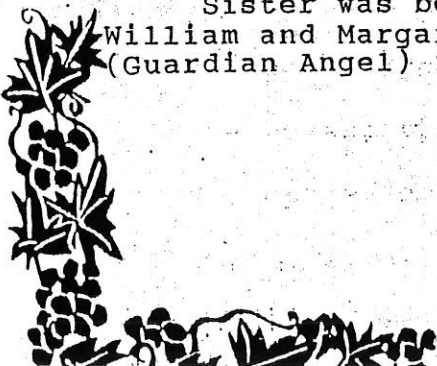
I ask your prayers and blessings as I continue to live this life as a Missionary Sister of Our Blessed Lady of Victory."

(Sister's Vow Renewal)

Such a beautiful Scripture reading Sister Lurlien McCoy fashioned into her own words. Her life reflected these inspiring thoughts until her last breath, August 23, 2001.

Sr. Lurlien died in Holy Family Health Care Center, Victory Noll, Thursday noon. Sister Marie Welter was with her. She has suffered patiently during the past six and one-half years at Victory Noll as she gradually weakened.

Sister was born June 23, 1919 in Hastings, Minnesota to William and Margaret Zusan McCoy. She completed grammar school (Guardian Angel) in Hastings and graduated from Hastings High.



Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters congregation received Sister Lurlien into the postulancy October 28, 1939, and she made her first vows August 5, 1942. She was known as Catechist Lurlien McCoy until the congregation changed the title to Sister. Then she was Sister Mary William McCoy. Later the Sisters were permitted to return to their baptismal names and she was known as Sister Lurlien.

Sister Lurlien has served as teacher and coordinator in religious education programs in California, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and Pennsylvania. She returned to Victory Noll in 1995, from the mission, Escanaba, Michigan, where she ministered twenty-four years.

Sister was very happy as a catechist. She has left some notes of her days over the years. She was most enthusiastic when there were many pupils. Some programs were "cradle to the grave" as her pastor had named it at one time. There were those teaching children and others preparing adults to teach more children and adults. She also has referred to her different assignments of canning in the summers, cooking in the Chancery, and other various works.

Survivors in the family include: one sister, Rita Maczko, Mendota Heights, Minnesota and one brother John Robert McCoy, Cannon Falls, Minnesota, and nieces, nephews, relatives, friends and Victory Noll Sisters who feel this loss.

The Wake service was Sunday evening. "Only a Shadow", "Be Not Afraid", "Like a Seal on Your Heart" were some of the hymns. The family and Sisters recalled enjoyable days with Sister. Refreshments and visiting followed in the dining room.

The Liturgy for Christian Burial Monday morning was beautiful. The schola, instrumentalists, Sister Dorothy Anne Lengerich and Sister Mary Magdalen Heim, and Sister Rita Musante led with Sister's favorites, "Here I Am, Lord", "We Remember", "Song of Farewell", and "How Great thou Art." The family and friends participated in the liturgy for their sister, aunt and friend: Presider, Father Thomas Fahey; Cross Bearer, Steve McCoy; Laying of Pall, Mary McCoy and Mary Jane Pepin; Laying of Symbol, Margaret Maczko; Readers, Joe McCoy and Andy McCoy; Carrying of Gifts, Rita Maczko and Mary Pepin, Sister Jeanette Halbach had Final Commendation and many processed to the cemetery.

Sister Lurlien, you have given us a pattern of "life for God" as well as those you have met over the years in your teaching ministry across the U.S.A. Please remember us to the Lord as we will be remembering you.

Sincerely yours,

Sister Marjorie

Sister Marjorie Curran