

Victory Noll  
Huntington, Indiana 46750  
February 16, 1981

Dear Sisters,

"If anyone will serve me, let her follow me; where I am, there will my servant be. If anyone serves me, her the Father will honor." John 12:26

For the third time in fifty days we have witnessed a sister reach the moment of her ultimate freedom and enter her new life with Jesus through the mystery of death. Father Kilduff described this moment as: "Our entering into a situation where we can embrace the will of God completely!"

Today, with this joyful liturgy, we celebrate Sister Margaret's new life and thank the Father for the reflection of His love in her.

Sister Margaret returned to Victory Noll from San Angelo for retirement in September of 1978. At the time of her return to the Noll, she was having some problems due to arthritis but was quite active then and throughout 1979. During the fall of 1980, she was transferred to the infirmary because she was having difficulty with ambulation. She was admitted to the Huntington Memorial hospital in December of 1980 where it was discovered that she had severe anemia. Her condition rapidly deteriorated after she was released and she was readmitted on December twenty-first for more testing. She was diagnosed at this time as having a malignancy called lymphosarcoma. She returned to the infirmary on Christmas eve. On January ninth, she was admitted to the Lutheran hospital in Fort Wayne where oral chemotherapy was started. Sister had several blood transfusions, but these did not completely overcome the extreme weakness she was experiencing. She was released from the hospital on January twenty-fourth and returned to the infirmary on third floor where she needed total care around the clock. Father Jim Hast, ofm, cap., of Solanus Center anointed Sister Margaret on January twenty-seventh.

Sister Margaret remained mentally alert until a few days before her death. After her condition became critical and death seemed imminent, the Sisters kept a loving twenty-four hour vigil at her bedside. Sister was so patient through it all and never complained about her discomfort. Sister Virginia Schmitt and Sister Christopher were with her on Thursday morning when she went home to God at five fifteen a.m. February twelfth.

Sister Margaret was born June 13, 1903 in St. Louis and entered the Congregation August 20, 1931. Of that particular class, five of the young women were from St. Louis. Sister made first profession of vows September 8, 1934. Because she was a book-keeper and stenographer for the railroad before she entered, Father Sigstein kept her at Victory Noll for two years to help in the finance department before sending her to the missions. Most of Sister Margaret's religious life was spent in the Mid-west and in Texas.

Sister Margaret had a delightful sense of humor and when situations were difficult or tense, the sisters could usually expect a good laugh because of Sister's ability to see the funny side of the situation.

Before she was confined to the infirmary, Sister Margaret spent much of her time in Memorial chapel. On many mornings she was present long before anyone else appeared for Mass. When Sister Catherine commented on her early presence there, she said very simply: "The Mass is my life!" "I live for the Mass!"

Sister Margaret is survived by her half-brother Adolph of St. Louis and several nieces and nephews. Her two sisters, Rose and Hildegard preceded her in death. None of her family were able to be present for the funeral.

The Liturgy of Christian Burial was celebrated by Father Jim Hast, ofm, cap., of the Solanus Center who also delivered the homily. Father spoke of Our Lady as always pointing the way to her Son, Jesus. As a member of this Marian Congregation, Sister Margaret, through her teaching and example, led others to Christ. Her death has put us all in touch with Christ's resurrection. It is a very teachable moment for all of us. We remember Sister Margaret's life and death and know that she is with Christ. In believing, we rejoice with her!

The final commendation prayers were led by Sister Virginia. Because of inclement weather, Father Jim prayed the graveside prayers in the chapel. Since the vault wasn't in place, we were delayed in our walk to the cemetery. When we arrived, about twenty minutes late, Father blessed the grave, we sang the DeMontfort hymn and returned to the house.

Lovingly in Jesus and Mary,

*Sister Germaine*

P.S. A point of interest:

Sister Margaret would have celebrated her golden jubilee this year. She is also the fiftieth member of our Congregation to be called home in death. May she rest in peace!