



Victory Noll
Huntington, In.
September 9, 1991

Dear Sisters and Associates,

"You will be endowed with strength to stand fast, to endure joyfully whatever may come, giving thanks to the Father for having made you worthy to share the lot of the saints in light!" Col. 1:11-12

This was a part of the beautiful reading we had in the liturgy of September 5, 1991 when Sister Clara Puls answered her call at 9:08 a.m. Thursday morning to move through the mystery of death to behold the revelation of the Risen Christ. We rejoice with Sr. Clara in her celebration of love made perfect through suffering!

Sister Clara returned to Victory Noll from Tucson in May of 1978. She was in fairly good health and took part in the activities of the community. This included weekly visits as a volunteer to the Veterans Hospital in Marion. In 1988, she received a certificate of thanks for the hundreds of hours she had spent being of service to the Veterans. In 1982 she added a new duty, that of being an assistant to the Librarian at Victory Noll. In 1988, she had to discontinue her work in Marion because there was no longer a driver to take her. In 1989, she had to discontinue her service to our library because of health problems. Sister Clara always felt the need to be "useful." Her greatest leisure time pleasures were reading and working on her jig-saw puzzles.

During this past winter, Sister Clara was not feeling well and lost considerable weight. In June, she had surgery for colon cancer. Chemotherapy treatments were not effective and her condition deteriorated. On Tuesday evening, September 3, Father Fahey anointed her. On Wednesday evening, Sister Clara appeared to go into a coma. The Sisters stayed at her bedside during the night. Sister Lucy Marie and nurses Mandy Fordyce and Malinda Ferguson were at her bedside when she slipped into eternity. Our Mass had just ended.

Sister Clara spent thirty-nine years in the missions of California, Texas, Colorado, Wyoming and Arizona. Sister's last mission was the San Andres house in Az. (Tucson) where she lived as a retiree. She volunteered one (and sometimes two) days a week to help catalogue books for the library at Salpointe High School where she loved being around the students. Some would come and sit with her because they loved her sense of humor. Sister came to be interested in that work because Sister Elizabeth Ann Evans was librarian of the high school at that time. Sister Clara held the position of superior in Texas, California, Colorado and Wyoming.

Sister Clara, daughter of the late John W. and Caroline Wherle Puls, was born July 24, 1907 in Cincinnati, Ohio. She was a stenographer and bookkeeper for the same firm for twelve years before entering our Congregation from St. William's parish in Cincinnati on February 4, 1936. She made first vows 8/5/1939 at Victory Noll and celebrated her Golden Jubilee in 1986.

The wake service was held in Memorial Chapel at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday September 8. Sister AnnaMarie Richter was the leader with Sisters Isabelle and Florentine doing the readings. The readings were from 1 John 1:1.3.5 and Matt. 5:8.14-16. The theme was Light. The service concluded with a hymn.

Sister's family arrived in time for the funeral. Her brother John with his wife Paula and her brother Larry with his wife Helen were present. Her niece Nancy and nephews Bill and Michael were also present. They were sons and daughter of Larry and Helen. Sister's brother, Brother Carl, M.M. and sister, Sr. Mary Carolyn, M.M. of Maryknoll were ill and unable to be present.

The Liturgy of Christian Burial was celebrated by Father Fahey, our chaplain. Srs. Evelyn Marie carried the cross and Mary John and Mary Barbara carried the candles; Srs. Carolyn I. and Dorothy Louise placed the pall on the casket; Srs. Carolyn Louise and Mary Rose did the readings; Sr. Carmen sang the Alleluia verse; Father gave the homily; Sr. Gertrude offered the prayers of the faithful and Srs. Marie Arteal and Mary Elise brought up the gifts.

In his homily, Father Fahey said he was sure that Sister Clara was in heaven as that is what she had always wanted. In her commitment, she gave herself completely to God. He spoke of the necessity of becoming educated for our mission in life which is necessary and good. But, he said, getting a degree in sanctity is better. He recalled the jubilation of the 72 disciples when they returned from their first mission; "Master, even the demons are subject to us in your name." "Yes, Jesus said in reply: I watched Satan fall from the sky like lightning. See what I have done; I have given you power to tread on snakes and scorpions and all the forces of the enemy and nothing shall ever injure you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice so much in the fact that the devils are subject to you as that your names are inscribed in heaven." (Luke 10:17-20)

Sister Mary Louise shared a few thoughts before the prayers of Commendation.

"Before our final prayer I want to take this opportunity to tell you, the members of Sister Clara's family, how much we value your presence with us as we reflect on Sister's life with us and celebrate her passage to life everlasting.

I have just returned to Victory Noll after being away for the better part of a month. I was not with Sister Clara these last days, but I do recall one of the final times I was with her, despite her pain and discomfort she, in her usual jovial manner, began to sing some old time songs. (As you may know, Clara loved to sing and had a good sense of humor) I joined her and then, after finishing one song she gave me a wink and a little nod and began "SHOW ME THE WAY TO GO HOME". We both knew that was not just a favorite sing along song - it was Clara's prayer. After fifty-five years of dedicated missionary and community life, Sister Clara was shown the way to go home and the example of her life helps to point the way for each of us. I am not sure what Sister's song is now but I am confident that she is truly home."

Again, in gratitude, love and thankfulness, we praise and thank God for the gift of his love expressed in our dear Sister Clara. How graced we were to witness her faith-filled preparation to "come and see!" I will miss you Clara, and I pray that "the angels lead you into paradise. May the martyrs come to welcome you into the holy city . . . may the choirs of angels welcome you. . . and may you have eternal rest!" Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

In Jesus and Mary,

Sister Germaine Stadler, O.L.V.M.
Sister Germaine Stadler, olvm