

Victory Noll
Huntington, Indiana
February 19, 1975

Dear Sisters

WE HAVE PASSED OUT OF DEATH INTO LIFE! (1 John 3:14)

Again, we have experienced the mystery of death here at Victory Noll; this time in the sudden death of Sister Helen Therese Weber on Monday, February 17, 1975. The culmination of her life came quickly to thrust her out of time into eternity and her new life with God.

Aside from degenerative arthritis of both shoulders, much vertebral lipping and hypertrophic arthritis of all her mid-dorsal vertebrae, which certainly caused Sister a great deal of agonizing pain, there did not seem cause for grave concern. The only medication that Sister was taking presently, were drops for her ears and eyes.

Saturday, Sister enjoyed a visit with Mrs. Tuite and her daughter Kathy from West Lafayette, who were here visiting Sister Jo Noreen.

Sunday, Sister complained of not feeling well. She was present for the Liturgy at 10:30, but for the first time, missed the rosary in late afternoon. In the evening, around 8:15, when Sister Mary Elise came in to give her the medication, she told Sister Mary Elise that since there would be no Liturgy the next morning, she would sleep in and take care of her own breakfast when she awakened. She also asked that Sister make an appointment for a general physical check-up. Sister Amelia dropped in around 9:30 p.m., to see if she had any needs and stayed a short while to joke with her. No one saw her again until Sister Camilla made the rounds the next morning, around 10:30 a.m. Sister Camilla found her, clad in her pajamas and sitting in the rocker in the adjoining room. Sister Helen Therese had the habit of using the rocker in that room. The coroner estimated her death at 9:30 a.m., and the immediate cause as a heart attack.

Father Traub, from St. Mary's Church in Huntington, came immediately and said the prayers for the deceased. The sisters gathered gathered in the hall to say the rosary. Even Sister Viola was present in spite of the difficulties of her recent surgery.

Sister Helen Therese was born October 15, 1895, in Brooklyn, New York. She was the fourth oldest in a family of nine children. Sister entered the Congregation in October 29, 1927, and made her first profession of vows March 25, 1930. Her early years in the missions were spent in New Mexico, Indiana, Texas and California. She served in the capacity of superior in San Angelo in 1944. Her later years were spent in the missions of the East and Mid-west. She was missioned in West Lafayette prior to her return to Victory Noll in 1967.

Sister's brother Siegfried and her sister Barbara Houston of Lake Worth, Florida, and her niece, Rita Smith of Garden City, N.Y., were present for the funeral. The other members of her family, Anthony, Edward, Mary and Caroline were unable to travel because of ill health.

Father Tom Kessler returned from Milwaukee to celebrate the Liturgy of Christian Burial. The novices assisted him. Siegfried, Barbara and Rita carried the gifts at the Preparation rite. As usual, Father Tom's homily was simple and thought-provoking. We were reminded that death gives meaning to life just as conversely, life gives meaning to death. All the "happenings" of life have meaning only because of Jesus. Because of Jesus, our lives have meaning here and reach fulfillment in the experience of the mystery of death.

Let us encourage one another to live our daily "dying" with faith and complete trust in Christ Jesus, willing to "let go" when he calls us into Life and Fulfillment through this mystery of death.

With love in Jesus and Mary,

Sister Germaine Staller