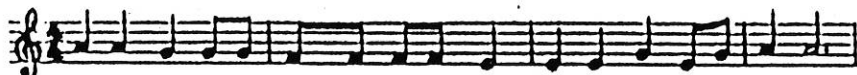


April 23, 1997

Dear Sisters:

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 116 Owen Alstott



I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

Music © 1988, OCP Publications, 8536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97219. All rights reserved.
The English translation of the Psalm Response from the *Lectioary for Aides* © 1988, 1991.
International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. All rights reserved.

This psalm is taken from the Wake Service for Sister Virginia Hamilton held on Monday evening.

Sister Virginia died Sunday, April 20, 1997. She was born September 15, 1915, in Owensboro, Kentucky to Thomas Clement and Elizabeth (Wathen) Hamilton. She was baptized, Mary Virginia, in St. Paul's Catholic Church, Owensboro, September 26, 1915.

Sister Virginia was preceded in death by a sister, Elizabeth Hamilton and a brother, Joseph Hamilton. Two sisters survive: Mrs. Carmel Pesch of Fresno, California and Mrs. Loretta Pomaville, of Clovis, California and a niece and nephew.

Sister Virginia attended St. Rose High School in Detroit, Michigan, for three years and graduated from Mt. St. Joseph Academy, Maple Mt., Kentucky in 1933. After graduation she enjoyed her employment caring for children, many of whom were Mexican. This seems to have led her to consider religious life and ministry with Victory Noll Sisters.

Sister entered Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters from Detroit October 30, 1940 and made first vows August 5, 1943. She ministered at our mission centers in California, Indiana, Texas, Virginia, Florida, Arizona and Nevada. In 1973 she returned to Victory Noll. She earned a certificate from Huntington College in December for Aides and Orderlies. Then she joined the nursing staff of Holy Family Health



Care Center. In 1987 Sister had a need to lessen her responsibilities and she was taking care of the guest apartments and Sigstein Center. She also shared other household tasks. By 1988 her eyes were deteriorating and her strength was failing. That same year she moved to third floor in Holy Family. She endured much suffering.

Sister was taken to Huntington Memorial Hospital by ambulance last week for tests. The doctors decided Saturday, April 19, she would be comfortable at Victory Noll and the nursing staff could care for her very well. Sue Martz, the nurse, was with her during Mass on Sunday morning. She stepped out of the room for a minute to help someone else and Sister Virginia went Home. It was the Consecration.

Sister Evelyn Marie Davis' display of photos named Sister Virginia as "an unassuming, soft-spoken, zealous missionary ever ready to be available." This same virtue was noted by Sister Gertrude Spetter as she recalled stories of the days the two of them lived and ministered in Nevada. Sister Isabelle Kestler remembered novitiate days and home-made plays. Sister Victoria Grabler gave thanks and appreciation for Sister Virginia arranging a visit to Washington, D.C. for the sisters living in the Clifton Forge house.

The family was unable to attend the funeral. Sister Dolores Carlos of Milford, Sisters Judy Turnock, Martha Wordeman and Angeline Walczyk of Fort Wayne were present for the funeral.

The Mass of the Resurrection, Tuesday morning, April 22, began with a Prelude, "Jesus Remember Me." Father Thomas Fahey was celebrant. The gathering hymn was "Alleluia, Alleluia! Let the Holy Anthem Rise." Classmates, Sister Isabelle Kestler and Sister Margaret Urhausen placed the pall. Father's beautiful homily of the paschal season readings, death and life was so appropriate. Sister Beatrice Haines led the prayers at Final Commendation and then the community joined the procession as the recessional, "How Great Thou Art" sounded.

The walk to the cemetery was pleasant. The sun was out. The bell tolled. Service in the Cemetery closed with our "We Have A Holy Mother." We walked to the dining rooms for a delicious dinner.

Sister Virginia, may your reward be bountiful for all the times you were 'there' for us and may you praise Jesus for all of His Goodness to everyone.

Sincerely yours,

Sr. Marjorie Curran
General Secretary