



July 20, 1996

Dear Sisters:

"I danced in the morning when the world was begun  
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun  
And I came down from heaven and  
I danced on the earth."

(from I Danced in the Morning - Gathering 708  
chosen by Sister for her funeral liturgy)

Today this hymn is another reminder to us of the joy and cheer Sister Angela Marzen has spread through her life on this earth. It seemed her life closed so soon as death came to her on July 6, 1996 in a train/car accident.

Sister Angela was born July 28, 1937 to Peter E. and Mary Lucille (Lawless) Marzen in Charles City, Iowa. She attended the parish school at Roseville, Iowa. It is interesting that Father Sigstein, our founder, was missioned to this town in the early years of his priesthood. Sister graduated from Immaculate Conception Academy in Dubuque, Iowa, May 1955.

Sister Angela is survived by 5 sisters: Zita Marzen of Stacyville, Iowa; Colette Gallagher and her husband Daniel of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Lucy O'Brien and her husband Bill of Charles City, Iowa; Monica Anderson and her husband Barry of Marysville, Missouri; Bridgid Kern and her husband Dennis of Minneapolis; 1 sister-in-law, Judy Marzen-Hage of Austin, Minnesota and 3 brothers: Peter A. Marzen of Mason City, Iowa; Tim Marzen and Joe Marzen and his wife Pam of Stacyville, Iowa. She is preceded in death by 1 brother Clem Marzen. The parents died in the accident.

Sister entered Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters September 6, 1955 and professed first vows August 5, 1958. No doubt with much enthusiasm Sister Angela went to the missions, first of which was Neosha, Missouri, then Azusa and Monterey, California and South Bound Brook, New Jersey. That was before

she began a twenty-seven year span of time in Texas: Lubbock, San Angelo, Eagle Pass, Edinburg, McAllen, Brownsville, San Antonio, Mathis, Kingsville, Abernathy and Petersburg. These missionary years were interspersed with a number of activities as studying at University of Saskatchewan in Canada for a masters degree in adult education, serving on our leadership team and a survey of our missions. Sister ministered in areas of religious education: as pastoral, family, director, Bishop's Board, christian formation.

About seven o'clock Saturday evening, Sister Lucy received the telephone call of the death of Sister Angela and her parents. Later we learned it was a train/car accident at a railroad crossing near Rudd, Iowa. They were enroute to a jubilee celebration at Immaculate Conception School. The train carried the car a quarter of a mile and the three died at impact.

Eucharistic celebration for the parents and Sister Angela was at Visitation Catholic Church in Stacyville at five o'clock Tuesday evening. Father Dennis H. Cahill of Osage was celebrant. Sister Rose M. Miller's reflection at the closing included: "Angie did the work God gave her to do and truly was a sign of God's presence among us."

We gathered in our Victory Noll chapel at four o'clock Thursday afternoon for viewing and rosary. The wake service included Psalm 122. We sang the response written by Sister Angela: "It's my happy heart you hear and all because you're near, my loves." All were invited to share a memory. "Angie" has been a part of many lives and really deserves the name her parents had given her.

The Liturgy of Eucharist Friday morning was celebrated by Father Bernard Dejon, OMI, from Virgen de San Juan Shrine in Texas. The English and Spanish hymns represented the two cultures close to her heart. This is a word from Sister Mary Jo Nelson's homily: "She did not let anything take life from her. As Angie sought the fullness of life, she freely returned the gift she received."

After Father's blessing we sang Yellow Rose of Texas, a wish of the family, and a procession formed to leave the chapel with "I Danced in the Morning." Father Sal DeGeorge, OMI, of Houston spoke to us at the cemetery of the presence of our Sisters in the missions and our charism Sister Angela has carried so well through the Texas Southwest.

Sisters from Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Colorado and California, Minnesota and Arizona were present for a service. Twenty-one guests from family, friends, classmates, coworkers, came to Victory Noll of England, Texas, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Illinois, Virginia, Canada, Indiana.

Sincerely yours,

*Sister Marjorie Curran*  
Sister Marjorie Curran  
General Secretary