



Victory Noll  
Huntington, Indiana  
May 31, 1988

"Alleluia. Blessed are you, O Virgin Mary, for your firm believing,  
that the promises of the Lord would be fulfilled. Alleluia!"  
Gospel Verse - Feast of the Visitation

Dear Sisters and Associates,

This morning, on the beautiful feast of the Visitation of Mary, we came together with faith and love to celebrate a meaningful Eucharist and lay to rest the remains of Sister Rose Mary Kaiser, thanking God for the reflection of his love manifested so clearly in her zealous missionary spirit among the poor. Truly, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of her who brings glad tidings, announcing peace, bearing good news and announcing salvation." Isaiah 52:7.

This past year Sister Rose Mary Kaiser worked with Sister Mechtilde Gogel in Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Lubbock. Recently, she completed the course of instruction in the RCIA program with a group of twelve persons who came into the Church on Holy Saturday evening. What a happy event that must have been for Sister and the persons involved! In spite of her eighty-three years, Sister Rose Mary was involved in home visiting, census work and a small Bible class held each Sunday. She also took her turn at cooking; her turn came around the week before she returned to Victory Noll.

Sister Rose Mary had been in relatively good health. Last November, she attended a Health Fair and there she had her blood pressure checked. It was quite high and she was advised to see a doctor. It was through this visit that some of the health problems were discovered and eventually led to her coming to Victory Noll.

Sister Mechtilde brought Sister Rose Mary to Victory Noll by plane on May 13th. Sister Virginia Schmitt met them at the airfield in Fort Wayne and brought them to Victory Noll. She was placed on third floor immediately. Sister was anointed on May 17 at the Community Anointing. Because of her chronic kidney condition, Sister Rose Mary was transferred to a doctor in Fort Wayne. On May 23rd, the Doctor had her admitted to the Lutheran hospital in Ft. Wayne for special tests and observation. While Sister Florence Garbacz was with her on Saturday, May 28th, the Deacon from St. Patrick's brought Sister Rose Mary Holy Communion. When he saw her condition, he decided it was to be her Holy Viaticum and said the prayers for Viaticum. Sister was fully conscious and moved her lips in response to the prayers. Her condition continued to worsen and when the Doctor called Sister Virginia at Victory Noll on Sunday morning saying she wouldn't live through the day, Trinity Sunday, Sisters Florence Garbacz and Martha Wordeman drove in at once. They came into Sister Rose Mary's room just before she died. The hospital Chaplain and the Deacon from St. Patrick's who had given her Holy Viaticum on Saturday came in to pray with them. Sister Rose Mary went home to God at 10:20 a.m. Sunday morning, May 29th on the Feast of the Most Blessed Trinity.

Sister Rose Mary spent her religious life in the mission field except for two years of service at Victory Noll from 1972 until 1974. After she received her Junior Uniform July 2, 1926 and after the departure ceremonies in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne December 9, 1926, she left for New Mexico December 10, 1926. She stopped at Santa Rosa and Anton Chico first and arrived in Las Vegas about the 18th of December 1926. Except for the renewal of vows at Victory Noll in 1928 because of her vacation, all other renewals were made at Victory Mount until 1936 when she made her renewals at Blessed De Montfort in Las Vegas and also her Perpetual Vows in 1940.

Sister Rose Mary was born September 2, 1904 in Hecker, IL. in the Diocese of Belleville. Sister was the seventh child in a family of eight children. Sister entered the Community from St. Augustine of Canterbury's parish August 13, 1925 and made first profession of vows August 15, 1927 at Victory Mount in Las Vegas. Joseph, Mary Elizabeth, Theresia and Edward preceded her in death. Because of age and ill-health,

Louis, Peter and Anna were unable to be present for Sister's funeral. Louis' daughter, Agnes Gebhart of Freeburg, IL and Edward's daughter, Christine with her husband Thomas Kinkalaar of Millstadt, IL., arrived in time to meet the body and be present for the wake and funeral. We appreciated and enjoyed their presence here very much.

The wake service, held on Monday evening, was conducted by Father Giles. It was the Night Prayer of the Church. Father concluded the service with a blessing of Sr. Rose Mary while we extended our right hand as the blessing was said. The service ended with the Salve Regina.

The Liturgy of Christian Burial was celebrated by Father Giles at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday morning, May 31, 1988. Sisters Mary Cecilia, Callista and Clarice were the cross and candle bearers, Sisters Florence Garbacz and Rafaela Mendoza placed the pall on the casket, Christine and Thomas Kinkalaar did the first and second readings, Sr. Germaine sang the responsorial psalm and gospel Alleluia, Sister Victoria offered the intercessions and Agnes Gebhard and Sr. Gertrude brought up the gifts. Sister Mary Louise Rowney prayed the prayers of commendation.

Father Giles spoke of the special faith in Sister Rose Mary that led her to be like the first generation Christians who linked the Christian message of hope and life to the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. He said the impact of the Resurrection became the secret of the Church's growth. He suggested that the deep motivation that kept Sister Rose Mary working for Christ for sixty-two years was that all she did was done for God. "All activities can become invested with the power 'of the Resurrection' when they are done for the Lord," he said.

Sister Mary Louise built her remarks around the song, Glory and Praise Dwelling Place. "May Christ find a dwelling place of faith in our hearts. May our lives be rooted in love, rooted in love. May Christ in His love give us strength for our living, the strength of His Spirit, the glory of God." Though Sister felt that the opportunities to be and talk with Sister Rose Mary were limited, she felt the words of this song were appropriate and reflected Sister's life and ministry as a missionary sister. She enumerated the fifteen mission centers "that were or are both a joy and a challenge for a women whose life was rooted in love and who had great strength for the living - compassion for the poor and courage to speak out in their behalf." She also mentioned the story she had heard from others of how Sister Rose Mary was instrumental in getting water, sanitation, and other cities services into the barrio in Lubbock after World War II.

"With Sister Rose Mary's family, we can only rejoice at Sister's long full life, her missionary example and the quiet dignity with which she accepted life and death. Christ did find a dwelling place of faith in the great heart of Sister Rose Mary and now we are confident that Rose Mary's dwelling place is with Christ"

Our numbers have swelled because of retreats, so there were quite a few of us who walked out to the cemetery for the graveside prayers. Now that we have the golf-car, Sister Mary Joan brings several of the older sisters out who otherwise could never have gone for the graveside prayers. After the service was over, we came in to enjoy a delicious dinner, Vince and the cooks had prepared for us.

Again, let us remind ourselves that life gives meaning to death and death gives meaning to our lives. All 'happenings of life' have meaning because of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Because of Jesus, our lives have meaning here and reach fulfillment in this mystery of death. Let us be encouraged by Sister Rose Mary's quiet acceptance of her death, and live our daily 'dyings' with faith and complete trust in Jesus and Mary, willing to 'let go' when we are called into LIFE AND FULFILLMENT through this mystery of death.

Lovingly in Jesus and Mary,

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