



Victory Noll  
Huntington, Indiana  
July 5, 1986

Dear Sisters and Associates

"Do not let your heart be troubled. Have faith in God and have faith in me." These words from the Gospel of John proclaimed in the Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Guadalupe Vasquez symbolize Sister's deep faith, as Sister Virginia point out in her beautiful homily.

Father Giles Soyka, our chaplain, celebrated the Mass. Father had visited Sister Guadalupe every day during the last week when her condition had worsened. Sister rallied somewhat Tuesday, July 1, and the nursing staff did not think it would be necessary for anyone to remain with her during the night. However, when Sister Mary Ellen was helping her with her evening meal, it was evident that the end was near. Sister Mary Ellen called Sister Camilla and Sister Virginia. They were with her when she died very peacefully and quickly at 6:05 p.m.

Other Sisters came to Sister's room and we prayed and sang - mostly in Spanish - until Sister's body was removed to the mortuary.

Sister Guadalupe returned to Victory Noll in 1978 after having spent fifty years in the missions among the poor whom she loved so much. When she came back to Indiana she kept herself busy with various tasks, sorting, folding linens, etc. until two years ago when her health deteriorated. The nurses reported that Sister Guadalupe was alert and easy to care for until a week or so ago when she had great difficulty breathing. She was confined to bed and given oxygen therapy.

Sister Guadalupe was born in Jalisco, Mexico, January 3, 1893. Four days later she was baptized and given the name of the saint on whose feast she was born - Genoveva. There were nine others in the family - six boys and three girls.

In the early twenties Sister Guadalupe went to Colorado at the invitation of her brother Ramon. Though she knew practically no English she obtained work in the housekeeping department of Mercy Hospital in Denver. Through the priests at St. Cajetan's parish she learned of our community. The pastor introduced her to Camelita Vigil who was about to enter the Society of Missionary Catechists. A year later she followed Sister Camelita to Huntington. It was Sister Catherine Olberding who accompanied her to Victory Noll December 29, 1925.

Sister Camelita helped Sister Guadalupe with the language barrier. She proved a good pupil and we know that Sister Camelita was a good teacher. We can only admire the "team work" of these two dedicated Sisters.

The services for Sister Guadalupe combined Spanish and English. This was appropriate because all her life she combined English with her native tongue.

Sister Guadalupe spent many of her mission years in Texas. At two separate periods she lived in Mathis, the second time, for ten years. The people in Mathis still remember her with affection. Each year on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe the former pastor, Father Bogart, would send Sister a bouquet of red roses. He came to Victory Noll for Sister Guadalupe's golden jubilee celebration and regretted he was unable to attend her funeral.

Neither were her four nieces able to come to Victory Noll for her funeral, but they still have the happy memory of her visit with them in June 1980. Sister's nieces are Rita (Mrs. Richard Brady), Lupe, Mary, Juanita, and Isabel. They live in Denver.

During this past year our chaplain, Father Giles, introduced the custom at wake services of recalling incidents from the life of the deceased Sister. Because of the Chapter Assembly, many Sisters are here at Victory Noll, and so a number of them related various happenings in Sister Guadalupe's life.

More than one Sister recalled Sister Guadalupe's spirit of gratitude which she expressed in the words, "Thank you 6,000 times." Sister Mary Ellen told us that she would say this to her and to the other nurses every time they did something for her. She would then add, "And I mean it!"

Dear Sister Guadalupe, we mean it too when we thank God for giving you to us. By your beautiful example you have enriched our lives and the lives of countless others.

The gift of life, of love, is in the present moment, as Sister Virginia reminded us in her homily. As she said, too, if we open ourselves fully today to that love which calls us forth, we need have no fear of death.

Lovingly in Jesus and Mary

Sister Elizabeth Ann Clifford