

Sister Evelyn Benton, OLVM, died at Victory Noll Monday night, September 23, 1968, at 10:10 PM. Her death was extremely peaceful and easy; she just seemed to stop breathing.

The day before, Sunday, Sister Evelyn sat out on the porch and wrote a long letter to her cousin, Tawa, who lives in St. Louis. Sister has always been very devoted to this cousin, but it was the first time for months and months since her stroke that she had written to her herself. She had always dictated a letter to her sister and maybe one to Tawa since May.

Monday morning Sister received Holy Communion as usual, but the nurses noticed that she was so very warm. Her temperature was 104 degrees. In the next few hours her respiration increased and her pulse increased rapidly. She found it more difficult to breath. Fr. Howard, Guardian at St. Felix, came over around 4:00 and Sister received the sacrament of the sick.

Sister Evelyn was born in Pensacola, FL, March 5, 1907. She came to Victory Noll in January of 1925 and was professed February 11, 1927. Sister was missioned to Gary, IN, Cerrillos, Las Vegas, and Grants in New Mexico, San Angelo and El Paso in Texas, and Santa Paula, Brawley, and Redlands in California.

Sister was extremely gifted in languages, especially Spanish. She taught Spanish at Victory Noll during 1929-1930. She authored a series of bi-lingual catechetical texts—BIBLE STORIES IN THE LANGUAGE OF YOUTH—and edited Spanish leaflets and song books.

Sister had a deep love for the Latin American people and was unsparing in working for them. After returning to Victory Noll in 1951, in spite of ill health, she worked among Mexican migrants in the Huntington area.

Two sisters, Mrs. Alice borders and Mrs. Lucille Lee, both of Gulf Breeze, Florida, survive. Both are in ill health and were unable to attend the funeral.

Sister's remains were brought to Victory Noll at 4:00 PM Tuesday. Fr. Thomas Kessler, O.F.M.Cap, blessed the body and offered the prayers with the community. That evening we had our Wake Bible Service, but added something new—Sr. Evelyn's favorite "San Jose, Tu Favor . . ."

The Sisters from Kendallville, East Chicago, and Paulding attended the funeral services held Wednesday morning at 10:30. Fr. Howard celebrated the Mass, assisted by Capuchin novice brothers. Msgr. Crowley came from Ft. Wayne and Fr. Gollner from SS. Peter and Paul, Huntington. Fr. Mar, I O.S.F.Cap., and all the Capuchin novices who work here, and Velma Noll and her sister Muriel Dougherty. We served dinner to everyone in the community dining room.

Ed Merckyx, the Funeral director, recalled that Sister Evelyn had taught him in business many years ago in Roanoke.

We sang "Adios, Reina del Cielo" in the cemetery where sister Evelyn lies next to Sister Catherine Ann. May her souls and the souls of all our Sisters-in-Christ rest in peace and may we, by our faithfulness to our vocation, prepare ourselves to join them in heaven to be the praise of the glory of the Holy Trinity for all eternity.