

Victory Noll  
April 7, 1980

Dear Sisters,

"If we have died with Christ, we believe that we are also to live with Him"  
Holy Saturday reading - Romans 6:8

We came together this Easter Monday morning to celebrate again in faith, hope and love another Sister's entry into new life, to thank God for sharing His life with us in Sister Blanche Marie and to be grateful for her courage in responding to His call to be the fifth member of this congregation, then in its infancy of development.

It seems fitting that Sister should end her earthly pilgrimage and begin her new life with Jesus on Holy Saturday, as she began her first journey toward religious life on another Holy Saturday in 1923 when, at St. Bernard's hospital, she met Father Sigstein for the first time to be interviewed.

She relates that she had written a letter of inquiry about our community to Archbishop Daeger in March of 1922 after she had seen a small editorial about us in the Sentinel of the Blessed Sacrament. Her letter was forwarded to Father Sigstein who sent her literature and a letter about the work of the community. She never answered his letter at the time because she felt that she was not ready for a commitment.

When she wrote the following year in March of 1923 and received the invitation to come for an interview during Holy Week, she came with the firm conviction of becoming a Missionary Catechist if Father thought she had a vocation. Before she left St. Bernard's to return home to Indianapolis, she asked bluntly if he considered her a suitable subject and if so, how soon would he have her come. Father answered indirectly by asking her how much time she needed to give her employer. Four weeks later, he summoned her and set the date of entrance at May 13, 1923.

Father Sigstein and Caroline Meister met her at the train and took her to the Academy of Our Lady where she was amazed to see so many School Sisters of Notre Dame and only two candidates (Marie Bodin and Sophie Renier) in training as Missionary Catechists. It was then that she realized she was a pioneer candidate in a very new missionary society --- so new that it didn't even have a building of its own.

In her memoirs, Sister speaks of February 11, 1924 as the day in which she, Catechist Meister and Catechist Benes as superior, moved from the Academy of Our Lady in Chicago to the Gary-Alerding Settlement House in Gary where they continued their spiritual and theoretical training and received practical experience in teaching and visiting in the steel mill district around Gary.

In July, after the feast of Mount Carmel, she received notice that she was to go with Catechist Renier to the mission of Ocate, in New Mexico. She remained in Ocate until November when she returned to the Settlement House to make her first profession of vows with Catechist Meister. They made their vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and stability to Father Sigstein in the confessional; during the Eucharistic Sacrifice, they renewed their act of consecration. Shortly after profession, Sister Blanche Marie was placed in charge of the Ocate Center. She labored in the mission-field of New Mexico from 1924 until 1940.

Sister Blanche Marie was far ahead of her time, and in the 20's, when she saw the great need for teachers, she developed a teacher-training program to increase personnel, a concept which is now in full bloom with the establishment of modern lay catechetical staffs in parishes. She worked zealously and lovingly in the formation, supervision and direction of her catechists and through the years formed and nourished many beautiful friendships --- among them, Mariana Saiz, who came with Sister Carmelita to visit Sister Blanche Marie while she was in the hospital in February. Mariana stayed a week and Sister was overjoyed!

When Sister Blanche Marie returned to Victory Noll in 1941, she became ACM director and kept communications open with these Associate Catechists of Mary who have been so loyal and generous over the years. Only in late January did she relinquish her work to Sister Mary Karl who is now following in her footsteps. Besides the ACM office, she was deeply involved in the work of the migrant camps and was always on call for those who came to see her at the Noll. She really never retired; she may have slowed down a bit, but she continued these works until very recently when illness prevented her.

Sister enjoyed comparative good health throughout her active life. Illness rarely kept her from her daily duties. In June of 1979, disturbing symptoms forced her to see a specialist and when the symptoms worsened in September, she underwent surgery at St. Joseph's hospital in Fort Wayne. The diagnosis was a malignancy. Treatments made her ill and miserable, but she never complained. She was alert, enjoyed visiting with the Sisters and assisted at Mass when she was well enough to do so. Around March 20, she became so weak that she was unable to get out of bed. She was anointed on March 12 and received Holy Viaticum on March 28. On Holy Thursday, she began to go into a coma and slipped into eternity very peacefully at 1:15 a.m. on Holy Saturday morning while Sisters Camilla, Virginia, Mary Loretta, Henrietta, Dorothy Louise, Ann Shirley and Mary Genevieve were with her. Mrs. Juanita Kohr, the night nurse aide was also present.

Sister Blanche Marie was born September 1, 1899 in Indianapolis, Indiana, one of seven children all of whom preceded her in death. She was a convert, having begun her instructions in her third year at the Sisters' Boarding School in Oldenburg, Indiana and being baptized April 30, 1916 when she was 16 years of age. She tells the story of her conversion in a delightful story titled: Sisters----they got under my skin and into my heart!

Surviving are two sisters-in-law, a niece, a nephew and several cousins. Present for the funeral were: Her sister-in-law, Mrs. Margaret Watson of Brooklyn, Michigan; a niece, Mary Ellen Bendele with her husband Bill, also from Brooklyn; Mrs. Patricia Horvath of Taylor, Michigan, a friend of Sister's since her "Loyal Helper" days; Mrs. Helen Gunzenhausen, Mrs. Alberta Wissel, Mrs. Gustie Miller, Mrs. Ada Scheiber and Miss Velma Noll all from Huntington.

The Liturgy of Christian Burial was celebrated by Father Jim Maurer, ofm, cap., concelebrated with Fathers Martin Pable and Oliver Bambanek, ofm, cap., and Msgr. James Conroy of Bluffton who delivered the homily. We walked to the cemetery in a light rain, but no one seemed to mind. We were celebrating her victory of new life! She understood what it meant to live out the Paschal Mystery in her religious life, and she lived it to the hilt in a spirit of humility and patience. She lived her Marian Spirit. She died with Jesus and we know in faith that she lives in Jesus! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Lovingly in Jesus + Mary,  
L. + M. + S. + A. + G. + H. + J. + K. + L. + M. + N. + O. + P. + Q. + R. + S. + T. + U. + V. + W. + X. + Y. + Z.*



ANNA HITZLER  
April 06, 1995

April 10, 1995

Dear Sisters and Associates:

"I place all my trust in You, My God.  
All my hope is in Your saving Word."

These words are from the Liturgy for Christian Burial for Sister Anna Hitzler. She died Thursday morning (April 6, 1995) about 11:10 in Holy Family Health Care Center. Father Fahey had anointed Sister a few days earlier.

Sister Anna Hitzler was born January 23, 1912, to Anton and Marie Advody Hitzler in Prague, Nebraska. Her parents were Czechoslovakian. She was second eldest in a family of eight children. It was from Oak Park, Illinois, that Sister Anna entered Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, September 19, 1933. She made first profession of vows March 25, 1936. She is survived by one sister, Sister Magdalen Hitzler, O.S.F., of Lake Zurich, Illinois, and nieces and nephews.

Sister Anna spent 53 years in the missions of the Southwest: Texas, New Mexico and California. The following words from a letter of Sister to a Sister Catechist reveals the love she had for her calling:

"There is nothing better that I could do than to spend the rest of my life going here or there wherever sent and teach the poorest of the poor all about God."

Sister Evelyn Marie Davis prepared a beautiful reminder of Sister Anna's life for us with pictures and words telling the story:

"Our beloved Sister Anna was fond of outdoors; gardening as well as all of God's animal creatures. May the Creator of all be her joy forever. Amen."

In order to improve and enrich the many activities and talents in which she was engaged, Sister Anna learned to play the organ for Masses and learned the sign language to prepare children for the sacraments. She took a Red Cross course and received a certificate in Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick to be of greater comfort to the ill. She made crucifixes for the rooms of the infirmary built in 1960.

It was difficult for Sister Anna to leave her missionary life for a health care center. However, her sense of humor, her charism to comfort and her tenderness with the very ill were welcomed here.

Since coming to Holy Family in 1989 Sister Anna's health has continued to deteriorate. She has been in a wheel chair much of the time but it was only a few days before her death that she became confined to bed. Sisters sat with her two days and two nights before she died praying with and for her.

Friday afternoon the body was brought to the Memorial Chapel and the Sisters gathered for Office for the Dead and the Rosary. The Night Prayer of the Church was prayed in the evening. It had a time for sharing stories and reflections of Sister Anna's life.

Out-of-town relatives arriving for the wake and funeral were four nieces and a nephew-in-law: Mrs. Maggie Hoyt of Marion, Ohio, Ms. Carol Pilhenton, Ms. Lucy Kruschke, Mrs. Dorothy Smothers and her husband, Louis, of Dubuque, Iowa.

Father Fahey celebrated the Liturgy of Christian Burial and Service in the Cemetery. Father's homily encouraged all of us to look forward to our own growth and enrichment in our next life.

The family and classmates of Sister Anna took part in the liturgy: Carol Pilhenton and Lucy Kruschke placed the pall on the casket, Maggie Hoyt and Sister Therese Egidy were lectors, Dorothy and Louis Smothers carried the gifts to the altar, Sister Mary Eva Geiskopf read the intercessions.

There was no rain as we walked to the cemetery, bade farewell to Sister Anna and returned to the dining rooms for dinner.

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,

*Sr. Marjorie Curran*

Sr. Marjorie Curran  
General Secretary



April 11, 1991

Victory Noll  
Huntington, IN  
April 13, 1991



Dear Sisters and Associates,

"THE LORD IS RISEN, ALLELUIA!"

It was within the second week of this glorious Easter season, on Thursday, April 11, 1991 at 6:56 a.m. that Sister Veronica Bradway answered the call to begin her new life in Christ Jesus. She slipped into eternity so quickly that we were quite stunned at her leaving us. In John 14:3 Jesus tells us of the place he has prepared for us and that he will come back to take us with him, that where he is we also may be. This wonderful promise is still promise to us, but a glorious reality for Sister Veronica.

Sister Veronica had gone to Holy Family third floor about ten days ago because of the flu and a severe back pain. While the back pain still persisted, she was getting over the flu and was even considering coming down to the dining room prior to her transfer back to Sacred Heart building. Sister had been in the foyer around 5:30 a.m. on Thursday morning and had gone back to her room. Shortly after 6:00 a.m. the nurses became aware that she was having breathing problems. They worked with her and when they realized she wasn't responding, they called 911. The Medics arrived and began their work on her. When they were ready, they took her to Huntington Memorial Hospital. Sister Helen Collis went with them. Very shortly after they arrived at the hospital, Sister Veronica was pronounced dead.

Sister Veronica, daughter of the late Backus and Rose Wardy Abdullah nee Peters Badway, was born April 7, 1913 in Detroit. She entered the Congregation from Our Lady of Help Parish in Detroit and at that time was employed as typist/teletypewriter operator with the Briggs Mfg. Company in Detroit. Sister was very skilled in this work and when she left the office, the staff gave her a very fine typewriter which she brought along to Victory Noll. Her formation training was slightly different in the sense that she became Sister Aurelia Jane's typist because of her skills.

Sister Veronica received her B.A. degree in Theology/English from St. Francis College in Ft. Wayne and her M.A. degree in Religious Education from the University of Detroit at the Pius XII Religious Education Center.

Forty-three years of her religious life were spent in the missions of Indiana, California, Texas, Michigan, Colorado, Utah and Arizona. Sister was Director of the Diocesan Office of Religious Education in Ft. Wayne during 1968 and 1969. It was with great reluctance that Sister Veronica returned to Victory Noll from Pecos, Texas in the summer of 1990, but with her slight heart problem, she felt she didn't have the stamina to continue. Her missionary zeal continued in a different vein as she continued to fulfill other's needs through correspondence, tapes, pamphlets and religious articles of which she always seemed to have a good supply.

Members and friends of Sister's family arrived in time to meet the body at 4:00 p.m. on Friday afternoon. Present were: her brother Anthony and his daughter Mary Louise from Wheaton, IL; Anthony's son John with his wife Eva from Winifield, IL; her sister Dolores from Grosse Pointe Shores, MI; her sister Ann with her husband Robert O'Hara from Grosse Pointe Shores, MI, and their daughter Mary Beth from Haslett, MI; Judge David Vokes from Warren, MI, and Genevieve Concetta Palazolla from Sterling

Heights, MI, both dear friends. Anthony's daughter Betty with her fiancé arrived on Saturday in time for the funeral. Sister's two sisters, Amelia and Josephine were unable to be present. Also unable to attend, were Morgan St. James and Michelle Bouche, a niece and grand niece. To all who were unable to attend, we offer our deepest sympathy.

The wake service was held at 7:00 p.m. Friday evening with Sister Helen Danenberg leading the Night Prayer of the Church. Sisters Lucy Marie Vega and Rose Zita Rosonke did the readings.

Father Leopold Gleissner, OFM Cap., celebrated the liturgy of Christian Burial on Saturday morning at 10:30 a.m. in Memorial Chapel. Participating were: Srs. Mary Cecilia, Evelyn Marie and Barbara carrying the Cross and Candles; Dolores and Ann placed the pall on the casket; John and Sister Callista did the first and second readings; Sr. Germaine sang the Responsorial Psalm and Alleluia verse; Sr. Martha gave the Gospel reflections; Sr. Gertrude offered the intercessions; Anthony, Mary Louise, Mary Beth, Betty and Eva brought up the gifts; Sr. Beatrice gave the Eulogy and Sr. Mary Louise said the Commendation prayers.

In her reflections, Sister Martha took us through Good Friday and the Resurrection, Jesus' appearances and his command to be witnesses - which would be difficult because Jesus said the way would be narrow and few would choose it. Sister likened the 'way' to a 'tight rope' and to walk this 'tight rope' we need the balancing bar of peace and humor. She said that Jesus is our strength and courage as we walk our tight rope, swaying back and forth, constantly in touch with our center of gravity, respectful of gusts of wind and even the slightest breezes which threaten to topple us. Sister Veronica's sudden and unexpected death was such a sudden gust, but in the readings of today's Mass, she leaves us with the gift of her courage. From Wisdom: "But the souls of the just are in the hand of God and no torment shall touch them. . . they seemed in the view of the foolish to be dead . . . But they are in peace." And in John: "All that the Father gives me shall come to me . . . no one who comes will I ever reject."

Sister Beatrice spoke of Sister Veronica's missionary zeal. She said that in this matter, Sister Veronica was persistent, but always gentle. She loved people and no matter what their life style, she never frowned on them, but worked zealously to get them back on the right track. She was always sensitive to the depression and loneliness of others and with some small gift showed that she cared and understood. In ending her thoughts, Sister addressed Sister Veronica saying: "Your mission now is complete, Veronica. You have everything in its fullness. You do not need us, but we need you. Do intercede for us that we receive the grace to be filled with your missionary zeal, your persistence and your gentleness. St. Veronica, pray for us!"

Again, we reflect and thank God for the gift of Sister Veronica's presence to this Congregation. We see the reflection of God's love expressed in her missionary spirit, her zealotness and sensitivity to the needs of others. How much we need one another to get a better view of God's love!

"May the Angels lead you into paradise, Veronica. May the Martyrs come to welcome you and take you to the holy city, the new and eternal Jerusalem; may the choirs of angels welcome you . . . and may you have eternal rest!"

With love in Jesus and Mary  
*Sister Germaine Stadler*  
Sister Germaine Stadler

Victory Noll  
Huntington, IN  
April 14, 1992



Dear Sisters and Associates,

"The Lord will guard us, like a shepherd guarding his flock."  
Response of the Responsorial Psalm  
Saturday - 5th week of Lent

In the shadow of Holy Week, Sister Lucille O'Brien heard God's call to "come" and responded quietly and peacefully to enter the mystery of death to new life in and with Jesus. Her life-long period of "becoming" was ended! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sister Lucille returned to Victory Noll from Tucson in 1986. She had gone to Tucson to retire in 1983. She came to Holy Family Health Care Center quite well and very active. Sister did volunteer service in the OLV laundry folding clothers for Sister Veronica. She especially liked to iron purificators. When the weather permitted, Sister Lucille enjoyed walks out on the back road. She realized that her memory was failing, but she remained cheerful and kept her good sense of humor. She and Sister Clara often sat together and reminisced about their childhood to the entertainment of all the sisters close by.

This past February, Sister appeared to be failing in health and energy. A mild heart condition was diagnosed and in spite of treatment Sister became weaker. In early March she was moved to the third floor. She developed pneumonia and gradually became weaker. She was able to receive Holy Communion until a few days before her death. The sisters visited and sat with her frequently during these days.

On Saturday morning, there was a noticeable change in her condition. Sister Helen Marie was with her the last hour. Sisters Monica Haines, Vivian, Marguerite, Camilla and Nurse Mandy Fordyce were at the bedside during her last moments. Sister Lucille remained very quiet and peacefully slipped away. Another group of sisters came to join in the rosary and the prayers for the dying. Sister died at 1:05 p.m. April 11, 1992 in Victory Noll Health Care Center.

Sister Lucille spent 45 years of her religious life in the missions of New Mexico, California, Indiana, Michigan, Utah, Texas and Arizona. Most of her years were spent in California. After her profession in September of 1935, Sister Lucille spent the next five years at Victory Noll in the book-keeping office. She went to her first mission in Grants, New Mexico. In 1948, she returned to Victory Noll to become the assistant to the General Treasurer for the next two years. Sister was bursar in Redlands for thirteen years:

I spoke to many of the sisters about Sister Lucille and each one spoke of the same virtues - her kindness, gentleness, patience, thoughtfulness and her sense of humor. All felt blessed with the privilege of knowing and living with her! What a wonderful compliment to pay a religious!

Sister Lucille, the daughter of the late Patrick and Catherine nee Ryan O'Brien, was born August 22, 1905 in San Francisco, Ca. the second youngest of nine children. She entered the Congregation from St. Agnes parish in San Francisco September 20, 1932 and made first profession of vows September 8, 1935 at Victory Noll. Sister would have been in the class of Diamond Jubilarians celebrating this coming August.

The wake service was held Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. The theme was the Cross. Sisters Mary Joan led the prayers; Sisters Florentine and Betty Lorenz did the readings.

Joseph Murray, Sister's nephew (Kathleen's son) arrived on a 9:00 p.m. flight in Fort Wayne. He rented a car and drove out to Victory Noll. Sister Lucy Marie waited for him and took him to Sigstein Center. We were happy that he was able to come. He was gift to us!

The Liturgy of Christian Burial was celebrated by Father Thomas Fahey; Srs. Mary Cecilia, Evelyn Marie and Mary Barbara carried the cross and candles; Srs. Dorothy Louise and Marguerite placed the pall on the casket; Srs. Mary Joan and Gertrude did the readings; The schola and congregation sang Psalm 23 and the response; Father gave the homily; Sr. Victoria offered the intercessions and Sr. Mary Elise and Joseph Murray brought up the gifts.

In his homily, Father Fahey quoted Jesus' words on death and resurrection: "He who believes in me shall never die," "I am the Resurrection and the life," "In my Father's house there are many mansions." Life is greater than death! You are destined to live forever! He spoke of the butterfly - the symbol of the resurrection. The caterpillar must die - the lesser life must give way to the higher life. The caterpillar spins a chrysalis, concentrates energies on being changed; it had to die in order to become a butterfly. God is faithful. The greatest thing in our life is getting to know God. He would have us develop a trust and need for him now. The greater our need and trust, the greater our joy in Heaven. Father ended his homily with the psalmist's prayer, "My soul is thirsting for the living God - when shall I see Him face to face?"


Sister Rose Zita used Psalm 116 - "I will walk in the presence of God" to develop her thoughts of Sister Lucille. Walking in the plan of God, Sister walked into the hearts of many of us during her 86 years among us. Her journey as a religious, began about 60 years ago, when she, Sr. Anna Rita and Sr. Mary Eva met in the train station in Chicago and came to Victory Noll united in purpose to serve the Lord. Sister ended her eulogy with a litany of gratitude - for Sister Lucille's family who gifted her with life and supported her in her vocation; for her own dedication to her vocation; for her example of prayer; her presence, her prayerful acceptance of suffering; for all those she walked with on her journey through life, those she brought closer to Christ through her missionary efforts, and all those whose lives have been touched through the presence of God in her life. Sister concluded with the prayer that Sr. Lucille would continue assisting us in our journey through life that one day we may, "walk in the presence of God in the land of the living!"

Sister's nephew Joseph spoke to us of her love for her family. He was the youngest nephew and Sister's messages to him were always inspirations. He was pleased and happy to be present to meet us - Sister Lucille's religious family.

We had a light rain on the way to the cemetery. After the prayers at the grave, we returned to the house for dinner. Joseph ate in Holy Family dining room. He had to leave at 1:00 p.m. for his flight to San Francisco.

With the responsorial of the morning of Sister Lucille's death to this time in Holy Week in the shadow of the Resurrection, we are so conscious of "new life" as it unfolds all around us here at the Noll. We mourn Sister Lucille's death, but we are happy and joyful for her new life in Christ Jesus! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sincerely,

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

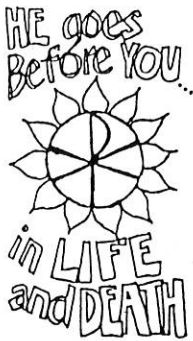


April 13, 1988

Victory Noll

Huntington, Indiana

April 13-18, 1988



"I have chosen you from the world to go and bear fruit that will last, Alleluia!"  
(Communion Antiphon (John 15:16.) Wednesday, second week in Easter)

Dear Sisters and Associates,

Her final act of love expressing her faithful discipleship came at 9:00 a.m. in response to the call of "Come!", just as we were finishing the Wednesday Liturgy of the second week of Easter! How quickly dear Sister Mary Paul Barthen was gone from us - into eternity - to begin her new life with Christ Jesus where there is only peace and blessedness - this Wednesday morning, April 13, 1988. We assembled at 9:15 a.m. in the new section, in her room and hallway to assist at the Memorial Service (for all those who donate their body to Medical Science). Father Giles led the service which included the rite of sprinkling and the laying on of the pall. The prayers and songs are very meaningful to all of us. Sometime later, Mr. Hart took the body to Indianapolis.

Sister Mary Paul returned to Victory Noll from Gary January 31, 1967 because of a broken arm suffered after she fell on the ice. In July of 1967, she was among the group that went to Grand Rapids to attend the summer school at the Dominican College. During that summer school, she stumbled over a chair, fell and broke her left leg. Since that time, she has been in Holy Family Health Care Center. During these years at Victory Noll, she has enjoyed relatively good health until very recently, when her health began to decline. Even until a few months ago, Sister could sit at the piano and play simple pieces. Music was very soothing to her. About two weeks ago, Sister contracted a severe chest cold and her breathing was labored. For several days she received continuous oxygen. On the morning of April 13, she had taken some juice at breakfast time. Pauline Blacker, nursing assistant, was with her when she noticed a change in her breathing. She called the charge nurse, Lori Johnson, LPN. Lori came to chapel to get Sister Virginia. When Sister Virginia arrived, Sister Mary Paul had just died. It was 9:00 a.m. The last hymn was being sung in Chapel. Sister Virginia came into chapel to make the announcement that Sister Had just died. Father Giles and the Sisters went to her room immediately to pray. The Memorial Service followed shortly afterwards.

Sister Mary Paul spent forty-two years of her religious life in twenty-one of our missions in the seven States of New Mexico, California, Texas, Indiana, Ohio, Oklahoma and Missouri. She, like Sister Catherine Olberding went to the missions as a Junior Catechist. Her first love was the mission of Carmen, New Mexico. Six years later, she wrote this delightful story of one of her experiences as a Junior Catechist. "Carmen," she wrote, "was a pretty little spot in the mountains where they lived, seven miles from the post office and received mail only when the school teacher brought it to them." "They had Mass once a month and the people came from great distances to attend. Father would wait until he thought everyone was there before he started the Mass, so it was always noon before the celebration began!" "They had a 'divided house.' two rooms were in one building, with a part of one room partitioned off for a chapel which was so small that for Mass, the Catechists had to remove the chairs so there would be room for the Catechists and Father. The third room was in another building some distance from the other part of the house. This was used as a kitchen. Can't you just imagine the Catechists running back and forth from the chapel to the kitchen to stir the soup or put another log on the fire? One morning, Catechist Barthen had to fix Father's breakfast. When she went to put wood on the fire, she was startled to see a chicken in the woodbox! Not being very familiar with 'livestock' of any kind, she tried to chase the creature out through the open door. It flew up and down squawking in the wildest possible way. Finally, she pushed it out through the door, not bothering to see what became of it. A few minutes later, a child appeared in the doorway and said: 'Catechist, someone has let your chicken go that was brought to you as a present!' Then Catechist understood!



'Frankie, Tom, Jose!' she called to the boys playing nearby, 'Go! get my chicken!' They brought it back with its legs tied. After that, she said she thought twice before she chased a chicken from the kitchen!"

Sister Mary Paul was born July 21, 1894 in Chicago, one of thirteen children, four of whom died in infancy. Her brothers and sisters, James, Richard, Virginia, Agnes, Antoinette, John, Isabelle and Clara all preceded her in death. Her sister Isabelle was the mother of our Sister Isabelle Kestler and her brother Bernard. While Sister Mary Paul was baptized Anna Maria, she was always known as "Hannah", which is the Hebrew form of Anna. For a time she used Johanna, but "Hannah" was the name she loved. Hannah worked for the telephone company in Chicago and became so efficient in her work that she was made a teacher of operators. She worked the day shift and studied music at night. After several years of serious study, she and two other young women graduated from a School of Music in Chicago.

Hannah came to know the Congregation through her friend, Madeline Sophie Renier, who invited her to attend an Investiture in Gary. After the celebration and a meal, Catechist Olberding took her upstairs to meet Father Sigstein. Some time after that meeting, she received a letter from Father Sigstein telling her when she could arrive at Gary. She entered the very young Congregation from Our Lady of the Angels parish in Chicago June 29, 1924. This was the Junior Training Center in Gary. She said the first night all she heard was sirens screaming. Even as a native of Chicago, she wasn't used to that much noise! Catechist Barthen made first profession of vows at Victory Mount in Las Vegas, June 11, 1926. She celebrated her Golden and Diamond Jubilees at Victory Noll in 1974 and 1984.

One of Catechist Barthen's first experiences in Gary was the unique way they began the laundry at the Annex. First, they walked to the Settlement House to borrow the equipment they needed to do the laundry. Then, after doing the laundry at the Annex, they walked the eight blocks back to the Settlement House to return what they borrowed! "Can you imagine how funny we felt carrying all those things through the streets?" she asked.

On April 18, 1988, we celebrated a Memorial Liturgy in Our Lady of Victory Chapel at 4:15 o'clock p.m. in the afternoon. What memories this brought back for all of us! Sister Mary Paul had requested that we do so in a letter she left concerning her death.

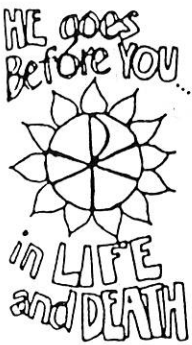
Sisters Mary Joan and Florentine did the first and second readings, Carmen sang the reponsorial psalm, Florence Garbacz offered the prayers of the faithful and Helen Marie Beall and Madelon LoRang brought up the gifts. Father Giles' meaningful homily spoke to us of the Christian aspect of life after death in its fullness. Among many other important points, he emphasized the importance of having a correct understanding of what resurrection means. "What Jesus' resurrection means," he said, "is that he went forward, breaking through into a totally new mode of existence, beyond death's grip and beyond our imagining. We are talking about Jesus in his human nature, that human nature in which he suffered and died; it was in his human nature that he rose. Having risen, Jesus was beyond conflict and struggle, beyond the limits of time, space and barriers." "The resurrection of Jesus is the model and exemplar of our resurrection. We are dealing here with mystery. The mystery of the kingdom of God in our midst...still hidden like a bit of yeast secretly working in the dough, but really there, 'the power of his resurrection', ours to taste, if we believe." "If we can firmly believe that Jesus is in our midst when we gather for prayer, that we 'abide in him' and are 'members of his body' while we are alive in our present condition, what is hindering us from believing that Sister Mary Paul is already now enjoying her resurrected life with the Lord in a way invisible to us, except in faith?" "If we can grasp this Christian aspect of life after death in its fullness...we will experience an even closer union with our beloved Sister in Christ."

The Communion Antiphon for the day Sister Mary Paul died, speaks to me so forcibly of what her life was all about! She loved life and lived it to the hilt and she bore fruit that will last for all eternity! How grateful we should be to our Creator for the reflection of his love as it shone forth in Sister Mary Paul in her ability to live life and enjoy it! She was such a blessing to us!

Sincerely in Jesus through Mary,

*Sister Germaine Stadler*

Victory Noll  
Huntington, Indiana  
April 17, 1989



Dear Sisters and Associates,

" I am going to prepare a place for you, and then I shall come back to take you with me, that where I am you also may be." John 14:3

It was within the third week of this joyous Easter Season, on Friday, April 14, 1989 at 3:00 a.m. in the morning, that Sister Christine answered her 'call' and through the mystery of death, entered into eternity to celebrate the fulfillment of the promise: " that where I am you also may be!" Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Now, her life with Jesus begins in a new way where there are no more tears, no sorrow or pain - only joy!

In September of 1986, Sister Christine had a mastectomy at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Ft. Wayne. It was a malignancy, but she recovered following surgery. From the time Sister had returned to Victory Noll in 1986, her arthritic pain continued to become more severe. Finally, on May 15, 1988 she had to give up her sacristy work in OLV chapel to move to Holy Family Health Care Center as a retiree. She enjoyed cooking in the small kitchen on the second floor and helped with household tasks when she was able. The pain continued to increase. A bone scan was negative. She was admitted again to St. Joseph's Health Care Center March 16, 1989. This time it was for an MRI. This revealed malignant tumors on the spine and the brain. Sister received ten radiation treatments after which she was brought back to Victory Noll in an ambulance.

During her stay in the hospital, her sister-in-law, Mrs. Walter (Florence) Wirtz and her sons, Richard and Alfred of Crown Point, came to visit her. Her brother, Meinrad also came from Troy, Michigan. She showed recognition even though she could not speak. After she returned to Victory Noll, she continued to recognize the Sisters and spoke only a few words at a time. She did try to sing "Dios de Salve" with Sister Liska when she visited her.

The disease process increased rapidly and on April 14, 1989, at 3:00 a.m. on Friday morning, Sister Christine died a peaceful death. Sister Virginia Schmitt, a nurse and two aides were with her when she went home to God. May she rest in peace!

Sister Christine spent 52 years of her religious life in the missions of Texas, New Mexico, California, Indiana, Michigan, Colorado, Ohio, Florida, Missouri, Nevada and Arizona. Sister loved the missions and always wanted to be out among the people. Holbrook was her last mission and there she visited the people and worked as a pastoral minister on a part-time basis. Prior to her coming to Holbrook, Sister spent almost a year with her priest-brother, Father Gilbert, who was dying of a terminal illness. She was with him from November until May 6, 1981 when he died. In the fall of 1983, her sister Adeline Patnoe became ill and could not care for herself. Sister Christine went to Dyer, Indiana to care for Adeline and was with her two years before she returned to Victory Noll. Adeline died June 16, 1986 after a lingering illness. Her brother Walter had died suddenly May 28, 1985. These deaths were very difficult for Sister Christine as she was devoted to her family.

I enjoyed the story Sr. Liska told about visiting with Sr. Christine. They were visiting in Detroit in an area where there were few Catholics and it was important to have the census card filled out correctly. Sister Christine turned in one of hers that had no last name and no house or street number. Christine said, " Oh, it should be easy to find, as it was a white house with a white fence around it." It turned out that it wasn't so easy as there were many white houses with white fences on several streets. So they went up and down the streets and on the third time around, Sister Christine saw a woman come out to shake her mop. She recognized the woman and stopped to get the information. The day was saved! So was Sister Christine!

Whenever things went wrong, Sister Christine would say, " I know now that there are more mysteries than the Blessed Trinity!"

Sister Christine was born December 25, 1908 in Crown Point, Indiana. She entered the Congregation from St. Mary's Parish in Crown Point, February 9, 1928 and made first profession of vows in Lubbock, Texas March 25, 1930. She celebrated her Golden and Diamond Jubilees in

1978 and 1988. One of her Diamond Jubilee gifts was a trip to the Missions of her choice, with the chance to visit friends and relatives along the way. She ended her trip visiting a cousin in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She was so excited about the trip and thoroughly enjoyed it.

Mr. and Mrs. Hart brought the body at 4:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon. Sister Petrona Schaefer, CSA, Sister Collean Walsh, CSA, Dorothy Bloede, Rita Abrahams, Marie F. Wirtz and Vernon Wirtz arrived from Crown Point. Joseph and Catherine Wirtz of Merrillville, her brother Meinrad from Troy, Mi., and Rosemary Beales of Hyattsville, Md., (Sr. Miriam's sister) were present to form the honor guard with us and bring the body into the chapel. Sister Mary Louise met the body with a blessing and prayer and led the prayers in chapel. Vespers of the Sunday followed immediately. After the Vespers and the viewing of the body, the guests left as they had a three-hour trip back to Merrillville and Crown Point. Meinrad stayed for the wake and the funeral.

Sister Mary Louise led the prayers at the wake service. Sister Joan Arnold did the reading. Meinrad led the rosary. The service ended with De Montfort's hymn to Our Lady. Father Joseph Pusateri, Jack Brandush, Sisters Marjorie Curran and Antoinette Golabowski arrived in time for supper and the wake. They stayed overnight. On Monday morning, Mrs. Walter (Florence) Wirtz and her sons Richard, Robert and Alfred arrived from Crown Point to attend the Mass and funeral.

The Liturgy of Christian Burial was concelebrated by Father Joseph Pusateri, celebrant, from Immaculate Conception parish in East Chicago, and Father Leopold Gleissner, OFM, Cap. our chaplain. Sisters Mary Cecilia, Madelon LoRang, and Evelyn Marie were cross and candle bearers; Robert and Richard Wirtz placed the pall on the casket; Meinrad did the first reading; Sister Kathleen Leven did the second reading; Sr. Carmen sang the Responsorial Psalm and Gospel verse; Father Leopold read the Gospel; Sr. Mary Loretta offered the intercessions and Robert, Richard and Alfred Wirtz brought up the gifts.

In his homily, Father Pusateri referred to John's Gospel reading of the day, especially verse 2, where Christ Jesus speaks of many 'mansions.' Father said the 'mansions' aren't 'out there,' but within us, because the kingdom of God is within us! Sister Christine had opened her heart as a young religious and throughout her life, to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit, so that in all of her actions and thoughts, the kingdom of God was being formed in her. She extended that kingdom to others. "Thank God," he said, "for the gift of faith, so that in the light of faith, we can celebrate Sister Christine's new life in Christ!"

Meinrad gave the eulogy of Sister Christine - "When we experience death, our first reactions are shock, anger, sadness, loss and fear; but then we realize that we have no car, train, plane, missile, or space craft to go to God, our ultimate goal, except death. We have no vehicle to go to God except death! So, perhaps, we should be celebrating something instead of being sad!" Meinrad went on to enumerate various experiences in his life connected with Sister Christine and Victory Noll. Some were very amusing! He especially remembered how good his parents were to our Sisters by giving them produce from the farm. He told us that Sister Christine died on the 33rd anniversary of his Mother's death! How good God is to give us little mementos to hang on to, that give us strength and make the parting a little less difficult to bear!

Sister Virginia led the prayers of final commendation. Just before we started to the cemetery, it began to rain. Those who had severe colds stayed inside, while the rest braved the weather and got wet. After the graveside prayers, the sisters and guests came in to a very tasty dinner prepared by Vince and the cooks. By three o'clock, all the guests had returned home or were on their way home.

Sister Mary Eleanor Clements saw Sister Christine (as a younger religious) as a 'fun' person, a hard worker, one for whom nothing seemed too much for her to accomplish, one who loved the poor and was happy to work with them, one who had a sense of humor and an enthusiastic approach to life. That was a beautiful compliment, Sister. Thank you. I could add one myself. She was a terrific 'peanut brittle' maker, just like Sister Therese Marie Stech! Her severe sufferings this past year were a beautiful tribute of her faithfulness to her commitment. The cost of her discipleship was high! May 'this place prepared for her' bring her the fullness of blessed peace and joy for all eternity!

*Sister Germaine Stadler*  
Much love, Sister Germiane Stadler, olvr



April 24, 2008

Dear Sisters, Associates, Family and Friends,

SISTER VERONICA HIRJAK had been diagnosed with lymphoma several years ago. She received chemotherapy and the cancer went into remission. It reappeared and she had chemotherapy a second time. It went into remission again. When it appeared a third time, she decided not to take any more treatment. She was at peace with her decision. When she became weaker, she was transferred to third floor of Holy Family Building for nursing care. Veronica continued to come to the main dining room in a wheelchair but soon began to take her meals upstairs. On April 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:45 AM, while the nurses were helping her, Veronica's heart gave out and she died. She was 91 years old.

Veronica was born on July 17, 1916 in Taylor Springs, IL to Andrew Hirjak and Susan Mima. She was baptized Vera Anna but was always known as Veronica. Both of her parents were immigrants from Czechoslovakia and Veronica was fluent in Slovak. She also understood Polish. She grew up in a bi-lingual household.

Veronica had one half-brother and three half-sisters from her mother's first marriage: Mary, Ann, John and Susan. Veronica went to school during the Depression. Many young people often had to leave school to go to work but Veronica was able to finish high school. She was a straight "A" student and graduated at the top of her class. She then worked for a year in a hospital laundry. When she was 19 years old, she applied to Victory Noll and was accepted on August 27, 1935.

She was part of a group of eleven young women who made first vows in 1938. It was a time of transition for our congregation. Our founder, Fr. Sigstein, stepped down as director of the congregation and the sisters elected the first superior general. Records show that Archbishop Noll was the one who interviewed Veronica before her first profession. She certainly was living in an historic time.

Veronica's first mission assignment was Holman, NM. It was one of our earliest missions and Veronica got to practice the Spanish she had studied at Victory Noll. With her multi-language background, Veronica did very well. She enjoyed teaching religion and visiting the families in this northern New Mexico town.

Veronica's long missionary life was spent in many places: **California** (Brawley, Ontario, San Pedro, Los Banos, Monterey and Redlands); **Texas** (Lubbock and Big Spring); **New Mexico** (Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Las Vegas); **Colorado** (Montrose, Colorado Springs and Ft. Lupton); **Missouri** (Elsberry and Neosho); **Iowa** (Delhi); **Utah** (Salt Lake City); **Wyoming** (Powell) and **Michigan** (Imlay City). In all of her assignments, Veronica served God's people to the best of her ability.





Veronica enjoyed studying theology, "for my own enrichment and to improve my teaching," she wrote. However, she was reluctant to study full time, thinking that the younger sisters should have that opportunity. She wrote, "Since my days are numbered, I rather that my 'school days' be spent on strictly religious subjects." Little did she know that God had many more years in store for her.

Veronica applied the credits she had earned at Victory Noll to summer school courses. She attended college at Siena Heights in Adrian, MI and at St. Francis College in Fort Wayne, IN. She received a Certificate in Religious Education in 1968. She continued attending summer school at Incarnate Word College in San Antonio and received a certificate in Pastoral Studies in Scripture in 1974.

Victory Noll was always dear to Veronica's heart. In writing to a sister living there, she said, "Your letter made me homesick for Victory Noll and all the nice people and nice things that happened to me there." In 1977, Veronica took a break from the missions and came to Victory Noll to be part of the staff. She served as receptionist for three years. She then went back to the missions.

In 1983 she returned to Victory Noll where she again was part of the staff. She was in charge of the laundry for eight years, a full-time job! Her duties became lighter when she started taking care of the guest rooms at Sigstein Center and helping in the sewing room and hair care room. In 1997 she began a ministry that she especially enjoyed – caring for the needs of our resident chaplain, Fr. Fahey. She made sure that his refrigerator had the essentials and that he didn't miss out on special treats from the dining room.

In 2004, at 88 years of age, she declared herself officially retired. Her spirit of hospitality, however, never flagged. She continued to welcome guests to Victory Noll and her beautiful smile made everyone feel at home. As her health began to fail, her life became more contemplative. Her prayer, printed on her memorial card, described the ending of her life: "Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit." (Luke 23:46)

We laid Veronica to rest on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Seven family members were able to come for the funeral: Lorraine Strickland, her husband Wes and their two daughters, Stephanie and Sydney; Loretta Tokarz, her husband Mark and Mark's mother, Rita Tokarz. (Lorraine and Loretta are great-nieces, the grandchildren of Sr. Veronica's sister, Susan Martin.)

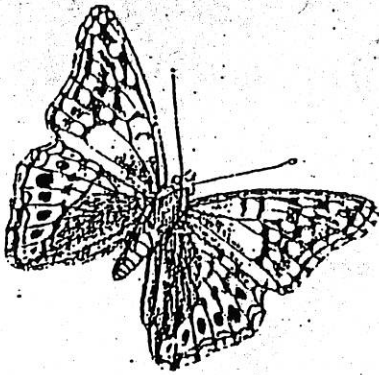
For her funeral Mass, Veronica chose the farewell words of Jesus: "In my Father's house there are many mansions. I am going now to prepare a place for you and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you to myself." (John 14:2-3) This became a reality for Veronica. We bade her farewell as Christ took her to Himself. Into God's hands she commended her spirit.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sr. Melanie Persche". The ink is dark and the script is fluid, with a large initial 'S'.

Sr. Melanie Persche, OLVN  
General Secretary





April 23, 2001

Dear Sisters:

As we were reflecting on our Baptismal vows during the Holy Week, so many thoughts of our life were in our minds and hearts. As Our Lord listened He was also preparing to call one of us from the fold in this world.

Sister Roselene Flaherty answered His call in Barstow Regional Medical Center, Barstow, Florida, Tuesday morning, April 17, 2001. She entered the center with pneumonia. About 4:00 o'clock in the morning she asked for a parish priest. In a short time Father Domingo Gonzalez came, anointed her and they were praying the rosary when she breathed her last about 5:00.

Sister Roselene was born October 17, 1912, in Louisville, Kentucky to John Patrick and Kunigunda (Miller) Flaherty. She attended St. George Catholic School, Sacred Heart Commercial School, and worked as an office clerk.

Sister is survived by two sisters: Dorothy Young and Irene Flaherty, both of Louisville, Kentucky and nieces and nephews.

Her parents, four brothers John Patrick, Richard, Anthony, and Charles Flaherty; two sisters, Mary Frances Folsom and Margaret Flaherty preceded Sister in death.

Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters congregation received Sister October 30, 1939 and she made first vows August 5, 1942.

The missions of sister were in Texas, Indiana, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Michigan, Ohio, and Florida. While most of her years were spent in religious education she was twenty-nine years in Florida in a variety of ministries. She has been assistant administrator of St. Jude's parish in Marion Oaks, social services with Visiting Nurse Assn. in Orlando, pastoral minister in St. Ann's parish, Haines City and was archivist and pastoral associate in St. Thomas Aquinas in Barstow. This is a comment she made some years ago to a news reporter, "I never feel alienated any place as there is always work to do."

There was a Mass in memory of Sister Roselene in St. Thomas Catholic Church in Barstow, Florida Wednesday 7:00 p.m. April 18, Father Domingo Gonzalez officiated.

We gathered in Memorial Chapel for rosary Friday afternoon. The Wake was in the evening. After lighting of the Easter candle we sang "Green Blade Rises." The petitions asked Gracious God to raise Sister Roselene into eternal life and that she might shine brightly in and among us. As we remembered our unspoken prayers in the depth of our hearts we also pledged ourselves to live daily the dying and rising of Jesus.

Sisters shared happenings, experiences and pleasant times with Sister and were grateful to have enjoyed her company. Afterward, there were refreshments in the dining room and we met Dorothy Young, her sister; Patty Habeeb, Mary Young Rising, Mike and John Michael Young, Rosemarie Young all of Louisville, and Joyce Perrett, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, a long-time friend who lived in Florida at one time. A nephew, Rev. William Folsom, Montgomery, Alabama, was unable to get a reservation on the plane to come to the funeral.

Father Thomas Fahey presided at the Liturgy of Christian Burial Saturday morning. The Schola presented "Awake and Live" for the Prelude.

Father's homily reminded us of this journey Christians are making since their Baptism. The goal is resurrection. Sister Roselene has completed this part on earth. She accepted the little white robe through the words of godparents years ago. She was cautioned to keep it sparkling white. She also accepted the candle lighted and she kept it lighted during her journey.

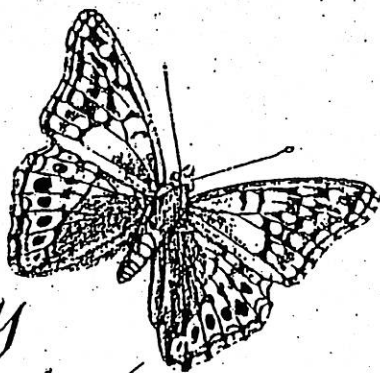
A delicious meal was served to all.

Sister Roselene, you have left a certain charism of your very own with us as you traveled from the west to the east. May you rest in peace and know the hand of God.

Sincerely yours,

*Sr. Marjorie Curran*  
Sister Marjorie Curran  
General Secretary

*I saw  
the glory  
of Christ  
now risen*



*Easter Sequence*



Victory Noll  
Huntington, Indiana

April 26, 1993

Dear Sisters and Associates,

As the joyful alleluias of the Easter season filled the chapel on April 18, Sister Mary Dorothy Schneider assisted at her final Sunday morning liturgy. The next morning would find her enjoying the fullness of life in the presence of Our Risen Saviour.

On April 7 Sister Mary Dorothy suffered a severe stroke. She was taken to Emergency, but the nurses were advised to care for her at home. She suffered several minor strokes, or seizures, during the days that followed. At 9:30 p.m., on April 18, the nurses observed that there was a marked deterioration in her condition. Sisters remained with her through the night. Shortly before 3:00 a.m., on April 19, Sister Mary Dorothy passed peacefully from this life. Sisters Monica Haines, Mary Rosella Lengerich, and Camilla Cray were at her bedside.

Born July 22, 1903 in Gardenville, New York (a suburb of Buffalo), Sister Mary Dorothy was the eldest of three children. A brother, Joseph, resides in Buffalo. A sister, Bertha, preceded her in death.

Dorothy worked as a Legal Secretary for a prominent law firm in Buffalo when she "heard the cry of the poor". Despite strong opposition, she responded to the call by entering Victory Noll on September 9, 1925. At that time the Congregation numbered about thirty members. The main building at Victory Noll had been dedicated just two months earlier.

Initially, Sister Mary Dorothy was chosen to do secretarial work for our founder, Father John Sigstein. Later, she was appointed Supervisor of the Associate Catechists of Mary, in which position she organized Mary's Little Helpers, later known as Mary's Loyal Helpers. Their role was to provide spiritual and material assistance to the "catechists" in the missions. Sister also initiated some changes in our magazine, THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST, which was published at Victory Noll.

During the early years of our Congregation, various Sisters were responsible for publicizing the "Society", and making



known its work. Appointed Publicity Director, Sister Mary Dorothy represented the Congregation at conventions, and prepared a slide and lecture series which she presented in schools throughout the state of Iowa, and elsewhere. At the invitation of the Director of the Propagation of the Faith, and accompanied by Sister Agnes Kozla, Sister Mary Dorothy presented the vocation film, In The Service of the Queen, several times daily for a month in the diocese of Belleville, Illinois.

As an instructor within the community, Sister taught English classes at Victory Noll, and also at our mission in Redlands, California. Having consistently encouraged the Sisters to continue their studies, Sister Mary Dorothy enrolled in many summer sessions herself. In the course of time, she earned a Bachelor's degree from Dominican College in San Rafael, California. She also earned a Master's in Religious Studies from Immaculate Heart College in Los Angeles.

As a missionary, Sister fulfilled various catechetical, social, and health care ministries in parishes located in Nevada, New Mexico, California, and Florida. Sister Mary Dorothy was remarkable for her energy and zeal, whether she was assigned to the densely populated Hispanic area of East Los Angeles, or the more rural town of Willows in northern California. She also served as Local Superior in various missions.

In 1980 Sister returned to Victory Noll. She now offered to do secretarial work for the Vocation Department, insofar as her health would permit. Severe arthritis was causing her much pain. Thereafter, during a twelve year span of time, and 742 sessions of Physical Therapy, Sister Mary Joan was able to help prevent much of the stiffness and crippling that often accompany such a condition.

At the Wake Service Sister Mary Dorothy was referred to as "a beautiful person whom we will miss". On Wednesday, April 21, Father Thomas Fahey offered the Liturgy of Christian Burial. Family and friends of Sister Mary Dorothy were unable to attend. Some of our Sisters from Ft. Wayne were able to be present. In his homily Father commented that the departed are more alive than when they were with us--for now they have the fullness of life!

We thank God for Sister's presence among us, we rejoice that she has attained that fullness of life, and we trust that she will intercede for us as we continue our earthly pilgrimage.

In the peace of Christ,

*Sister Elizabeth Ann*

Sister Elizabeth Ann Evans, OLVN

April 20, 1985

Victory Noll  
Huntington, Indiana  
April 20, 1985

Dear Sisters,

"Peace be with you; It is I, Alleluia; do not be afraid, Alleluia!"  
Canticle of Zachariah - Sat. 2nd week/Easter

Today, on this Saturday dedicated to our Blessed Mother, Sister Bernarda Durkin, died peacefully in the Lord at 1:30 p.m. April 20, 1985. Her brother Joseph and his wife Marguerite had arrived from Chicago at 11:00 a.m. and were present at her bedside.

Sister Bernarda fell in her room on second floor on March 11th and then sometime during the night of March 12th, she suffered a stroke and fell two more times. When Sister Maria came on duty, she brought her to the third floor immediately. For a few days she looked as though she would recuperate as she regained her speech and walked a few steps, but shortly after she became progressively worse.

One afternoon as she was propped up in a geriatric chair, she called out: "O Blessed Mother, tell Jesus I want to go home!" There was silence and then she said: "Well, go ahead and tell Him!" Sister prayed constantly that she would be taken to the Father.

Father Don anointed Sister Bernarda on March 13th and on April 13th. On the morning of the 20th, he came up to give her a blessing. About a half hour before she died, some of the sisters came in to pray the rosary. After they were finished, they stepped out in the hall. Besides Joe and Marguerite, Sisters Marie Welter, Camilla Cray, Maria Fratto and Virginia Schmitt were with her when she died. Immediately, the others returned and Sister Virginia began the Memorial Service in her room. This is the service which Sister Elizabeth Ann Clifford wrote several years ago for those who donate their body to medical science. The pall is placed over the body, the body is sprinkled with holy water and very meaningful prayers are prayed for the departed sister. After the ceremony was finished, those present sang, "We have a Holy Mother," and then everyone departed quietly. Later, Mr. and Mrs. Hart arrived to take the body to Indianapolis.

It seemed as though Sister Bernarda waited especially for Joe and Marguerite. They had called a few days before to tell Sister Marie what time they would be here. They arrived on time and had been here so shortly, when Sister Bernarda slipped gently into the reality of eternity to meet the risen Lord! "Peace be with you; It is I, Alleluia!"

Joe and Marguerite left the Noll at 3:15 p.m. to drive to Kalamazoo to see Marguerite's brother who was quite ill. From Kalamazoo, they intended to return to Chicago.

I recall Sister Bernarda stopping off at Victory Noll from Chicago on her way to Redlands in the summer of 1947. That summer, we second-year novices put on a play about Father Serra's missions and our props were scattered all over the front hill area and also the area where the Holy Family building now stands. The weather was forbidding and all that day we prayed that it would clear up. Sister Mary Whitfield was praying for rain! She won! Right in the middle of

of the first act, the clouds opened up and the rain came down in torrents. The Council Members and Sister Bernarda, our guests, were drenched! But they were sports about it. The next year I was missioned to Redlands and Sister Bernarda was my first superior! We laughed many times over that evening.

While Sister Bernarda devoted most of her religious life to religious education, in the seventies, she changed to pastoral ministry among the aging, the shut-ins and the infirm. She worked up many meaningful prayer services which the people loved. Sister had a real heart for this kind of ministry and kept up a correspondence with quite a few of the elderly after she had returned to the Noll.

She was an excellent typist and through the years has offered her services whenever they were needed. During these last few years, she had made herself knowledgeable about public issues and wrote many letters to senators and representatives speaking out for justice and peace. Politics was kind of a natural for Sister Bernarda. Her brother Martin was made Secretary of Labor under President Dwight Eisenhower. He died an untimely death caused by a brain tumor.

Sister Bernarda was born August 10, 1902 in Chicago, one of eight children. She entered the Community from St. Brendan's parish in Chicago February 8, 1932, and made first profession of vows March 25, 1935 at Victory Noll. She celebrated her golden jubilee at Victory Noll August 5, 1982.

Father Don celebrated the Eucharist today for Sister Bernarda and tomorrow, Monday, April 22, 1985 he will celebrate her memorial liturgy. We thank you, heavenly Father, for the reflection of your love in Sister Bernarda, who appreciated life and gave herself untiringly for others. We thank you, Sister Bernarda for the example of your faithfulness through the years and we beg you to continue to intercede for this Community. Alleluia!

*Sister Germaine Stadler*