

Victory Noll
Huntington, Indiana
July 7, 1983

Dear Sisters,

"For I am certain that neither death nor life . . . nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus, our Lord!" (Romans 8:38-39)

On the fourth of July, during the month of the Precious Blood, Sister Mary Angela Dickebohm died peacefully in the Lord. It seemed fitting that the Father should call her home in this month because of her great devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus.

Sister Mary Angela returned to Victory Noll from East Chicago in October of 1964 because of illness. Here at the Noll, she was under the care of a local physician for a heart condition and also difficulties with her feet and legs for which, from time to time, she was confined to bed rest. In 1965, she fell and broke her hip but recovered and was able to keep up with her housekeeping duties in Holy Family building.

Sister's life of fervent prayer and duty continued until 1978 when notable deterioration due to Chronic Brain Syndrome confined her principally to the third floor of the infirmary. For the last year it was necessary to keep her under close observation and she spent most of the day in a geriatric chair. Her last illness started about six days before her death when she was unable to eat, and drank very little water.

Father Perry McDonald anointed Sister just before supper on Thursday evening, June 30, 1983. She went home to God very peacefully at 1:30 p.m. on the fourth of July. Sisters Helen Collis, Camilla Cray, Mary Ellen Dooley, Virginia Hamilton, Marjorie Curran, Dolores Tringl, Helen Marie Beall and Mary Joseph Penning were at her bedside when she died. Her death was caused by congestive heart failure.

Sister Mary Angela spent thirty-six years of her religious life at the Noll where she held administrative positions from time to time. She was Directress of Victory Noll in 1929 for nine years; appointed by Father Sigstein to the Board of Governors in 1936; elected Vicar General in 1950 and as second Councilor in 1956.

In August of 1939, she was missioned to open the house in Salt Lake City and left for Utah December 29, 1939. On September 15, 1947, she opened the Ogden house on 25th street. Of her mission experiences, she seemed to dwell on the beauty of Utah and never tired of speaking of the missions there.

Sister Mary Angela was born June 27, 1890 in Lafayette, Indiana the third oldest of six children, three of whom died in infancy. She entered the Community from St. Boniface parish in Lafayette, December 4, 1926 and made first profession of vows at Victory Noll December 8, 1928.

Sister is survived by her sister Pauline, her niece Mrs. Agnes Butz and her nephew Robert Gates and five grand nieces and nephews, three of whom were present for the funeral.

Pauline, Agnes, Robert with his wife Louise and a dear friend of the family, Loretta Smith arrived at noon Wednesday, July sixth. We met the body at four o'clock and walked in procession to Memorial Chapel where Father Jim led the prayers and we prayed the Office of the Dead. In the evening at 7:30 p.m. we gathered again for the wake at which Sister Beatrice Haines presided. Mrs. Mary Leffers and Helen Eisenhauer were present. Refreshments were served in the reception room. This seemed a nice way to celebrate Sister Mary Angela's baptismal anniversary.

The Liturgy for Christian Burial was concelebrated on Thursday morning by Father Jim Hast, OFMcap, and Father David LaPlante assisted by Brother Jerry Pehler, OFMcap. Agnes and Robert placed the pall on the casket and Edward, John and MaryAnn carried up the gifts. Sister Dolores Tringl said the prayers of commendation at the end of the liturgy.

Present for the celebration were: Pauline Dickebohm, Agnes Butz, Robert and Louise Gates, Loretta Smith, Edward and Mary Butz, John and Marilyn Butz and Mary Ann and Michael McCarty all of Lafayette. Sister Antoinette was present with her sister Clare from South Bend; Paul and Marjorie Herberg, Helen Eisenhauer, Helen Krumanaker, Christine Stoffel, Mrs. Mary Leffers, Mrs. Bernard Rethlake and Mrs. Sher all of Huntington.

Father Jim's homily was a sharing of the comments her had received from the sisters who chose to share their reflections with him. He spoke of Sister's fidelity to duty, her patience during her illness, her kindness to others, her strict discipline with herself and with others, and the tears she shed in her administrative position under Father Sigstein when she had to issue orders which seemed unreasonable; she was precise and very proper - always a lady! He ended by saying again as he has before that we should pray to Sister Mary Angela so that we too, will be faithful in our commitment before the Lord.

Sister Mary Angela had a deep faith and from her confidence and love of God, I could almost hear her say: "For I am certain that neither death nor life . . . nor any other creature will be able to separate me from the love of God that comes to me in Christ Jesus!"

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,

Sister Germaine Stadler