

Victory Noll
April 22, 1971

Dear Sisters

Christ suffered for us, leaving us an example, so that we might follow in his steps, alleluia, alleluia! (Responsory, Eastertide)

Sister Mary Ida Kuntz suffered with Christ and has now entered into glory with him. Sister died at 12:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 20, shortly after the close of the solemn celebration of the Pasch.

Sister suffered intensely, especially the past few months. But no one would ever have guessed it, for she never complained, always had a smile for everyone. Those of us who lived with Sister Mary Ida here or in the missions know that she was always like that, never critical, always grateful for anything you did for her, an example for all of us.

Thursday morning, April 15, Sister received the Sacrament of the Sick once again. (She had been anointed a month before also.) Before Father Keith left her room this time he said to her, "Sister, I know that many are asking you for prayers. I would like to ask you also to pray for me and for two of the brothers who especially need prayers." Sister had her eyes closed the whole time, but later she repeated what Father had said. It was good to know that her mind was so clear. Sister received Holy Communion for the last time on Saturday.

Thursday evening Sister's sister Clara - Mrs. Adams - arrived from Oklahoma. She is a nurse and so she was not too shocked at Sister's condition. We were happy that she could be with Sister Mary Ida and help care for her the last days before she died. Sister's brother and sister-in-law from Oldenburg, Ind., had come often to see her; also her nieces and nephews and their lovely families.

Sister Mary Ida Kuntz was born in Oldenburg, Ind., April 3, 1900. She came to Victory Noll in September 1926. Sister Mary Agnes Rauschenbach and Sister Julia Schmitt (deceased) entered the same day. Sister Mary Ida was professed December 8, 1928 in Cerrillos, N. Mex.

Over the years Sister did missionary work in New Mexico, Texas, California, and Missouri. She returned to Victory Noll from Santa Fe in May 1969 and that same month had a mastectomy. For more than a year Sister seemed to be in relatively good health, but last fall her condition worsened and from then on, she suffered very much. It became increasingly difficult for her to walk; she could hardly move without great pain. When Sister was hospitalized again this past December, several of the Capuchin novices visited her. They were so impressed with her that they continued to come over often to see her after she returned home.

Father Roger Veik from St. Felix Friary concelebrated the Liturgy of the Resurrection with Father Raphael Weisenbach, O.F.M., Thursday, April 22. Many of our older Sisters will remember Father Raphael who was in New Mexico for many years. His brother married Sister Mary Ida's sister. Besides three Capuchin novices, five of Sister's grand-nephews served - two of them very tiny little fellows. Six little girls, grand-nieces, carried up the ciborium, wine, water, and extra chalices.

Sister Mary Ida is buried between Sister Evelyn and Sister Anna. May all our Sisters - and may we who will soon join them - enjoy the peace and happiness which Christ won for us through the sacrifice He offered to our Father in heaven.

Devotedly in Jesus and Mary

Sister Elizabeth Ann Clifford