



SISTER BARBARA McCORD, OLVM

Sister Barbara McCord died peacefully Wednesday, March 20, 2013, at the age 94. She was born in St. Louis, Missouri on November 10, 1918, the second of three daughters born to James Rhey McCord and Grace Elizabeth Danby. She was baptized Barbara Rhey McCord on December 22, 1918, at St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her older sister, Margaret E. Logie and survived by one sister, Bettie Cole of San Diego, Calif., along with several nieces and nephews.

Sr. Barbara entered the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters on January 30, 1937, made first vows on August 5, 1939, and served the missions in California, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Missouri. In one of her first missions, East Chicago and Indiana Harbor, she must have made quite an impression with her students, as two of them continued to be in contact with her throughout the years, even visiting her here at Victory Noll in the last few years.

Sr. Barbara began her many years in southern Missouri in 1966, doing religious education and teacher training at St. Cecelia Parish in Kennett, and then at Church of St. Ann in Malden. This ministry flowed into the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Office of Social Concerns in 1971, a position she held until 1974 when she became a pastoral minister at St. John's Regional Health Center in Springfield, Missouri. In 1977 she became a certified Pastoral Associate, General Health Care, with the United States Catholic Conference and with this certification she became a member of the National Association of Catholic Chaplains. This group had only three years earlier admitted religious women to become members. Sr. Barbara worked toward her certification by participation in the first accredited Basic Clinical Pastoral Education course offered at St. John's Hospital in the fall of 1976. Sister served at St. John's for 13 years. While at St. John's she also volunteered at the Veterans Hospital and at the federal prison in southern Missouri. She said upon leaving, "In all the years I have been a sister I have never enjoyed any years as much as those at St. John's. I love working with people. That's the part I'll miss the most."

In an article in "The Mirror," the area's Diocesan newspaper, author Robert G. Lee wrote of Sr. Barbara's leaving. "Southern Missouri will lose one of its beautiful, warm smiles this summer when Sr. Barbara McCord returns to her mother house in Huntington, Ind.," he wrote. "Sister Barbara brought joy and peace to many folks in Southern Missouri. Her kindness and openness and above all her humility, were beautiful examples to all who have known her. Southern Missouri will miss her grace."

As the article stated, Sr. Barbara was a kind and gentle woman who was always cheerful and ready to do whatever task was set before her, this was also shared by the sisters during her wake and sharing of memories.

The wake was held March 22, and the funeral liturgy held on March 23. Both liturgies were at Archbishop Noll Memorial Chapel, Victory Noll. Fr. Thomas Fahey presided at the Eucharist liturgy and Sr. Barbara was buried in the cemetery at Victory Noll.

"The souls of the just are in the hand of God and no torment shall touch them,"
Wisdom 3:1 This quote taken from Sr. Barbara's funeral liturgy speaks of her faith and tells those of us who knew her that she is now in the hand of God and no longer suffering.

We are grateful, Sr. Barbara, for your faithful service in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus and in being with those who were suffering because of illness or comforting those who were frightened by death. You who trusted in God; may you now understand truth and because of your faithfulness may you abide with God in love.

In the peace of Christ,

St. Dennis Downey OSM

