

Victory Noll
Huntington, Indiana
October 1, 1985

Dear Sisters,

"... thanks be to God who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!"
1 Cor. 15:57

The victory of her faithful discipleship came at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday afternoon, September 28, 1985 at Huntington Memorial Hospital, when Sister Benedicta Reinersmann began the joyous revelation of her new life in Christ Jesus. It was the day dedicated to our Blessed Mother and shortly after we had finished Evening Praise here at the Noll.

Sister Benedicta began having gastrointestinal problems about two years ago. She complained of abdominal discomfort which persisted most of the time. A series of tests were done but no exact reason was found to explain her pain. Sister continued to live on the second floor of Holy Family until it became apparent that she could no longer care for herself adequately. On September 18, the nursing staff moved Sister to third floor for closer supervision and assistance. Sister continued to care for herself with minimal help until September 21st when the pain began to cause her greater distress. She spent longer periods in bed and could not eat easily. Father Giles, OFM, Capuchin, our chaplain, anointed her. On Thursday, September 26th, Doctor Kay admitted her to Huntington Memorial Hospital via ambulance. There she received pain medication and intravenous therapy to prevent dehydration which made her more comfortable. Her condition remained the same although the pain was controlled. Sister Benedicta's youngest sister, Sister Henrietta, OSB, remained with her most of the time. On Saturday, September 28th while Sisters Henrietta, Virginia Schmitt, Camilla Cray and Marjorie Curran were present, she died peacefully in the Lord at 5:30 p.m.

Sister Benedicta spent most of her religious life in the missions of Indiana, New Mexico, California, Texas, Pa., Ohio and Missouri. She returned to the Noll from Malden Missouri in December of 1969 to retire at Holy Family Health Care Center. Here she engaged in many household duties and her prayer ministry for her beloved poor.

Sister Henrietta told an interesting story about Sister Benedicta's habit of stopping at a nearby church at home to pray to our Blessed Mother for guidance in life. It was during this time that she saw the ad in the Sunday Visitor about Victory Noll. She shared this news with Sister Sophia, her dear friend who worked with her in the same office. Shortly afterwards, both young women entered this community.

Sister Benedicta was born May 31, 1895 in Pittsburgh, Pa., the fifth in a family of ten children. She entered the community from St. Mary's parish in Pittsburgh February 9, 1929 and made first profession of vows at Victory Noll April 4, 1932. She celebrated her golden jubilee August 5, 1979.

Sister Benedicta is survived by four sisters: Rosella Schirmer of Albion, Pa., Florence Kendall of Scottsdale, Az., Margaret Wolf of Munhall, Pa., and Sister Henrietta of Pittsburgh. Rosella, Florence and Margaret were unable to be present, but we were happy that Sister Henrietta could be here with Sister Benedicta.

During the wake service on Monday evening, Father Giles invited the Sisters to share their experiences and thoughts of Sister Benedicta with all present. The sharings revealed some very beautiful qualities and virtues of this completely self-effacing religious who was always so pleasant to everyone.

The Liturgy of Christian Burial was concelebrated by Father Giles Soyka, Father Don Brody and Father Michael Wild, all Capuchins. Sister Mary Louise and Sister Henrietta placed the pall on the casket. The readings were done by Sisters Marie Celine Ernst and Marjorie Curran. Father Giles gave the homily where he reminded us that we come to pay our respects to our loved one, to pray for her and to be strengthened in our faith. Sister Mary Loretta offered the intercessions and Sisters Mary Bernadette Wade and Catherine Marie Ganse brought up the gifts.

Sister Mary Louise Rowney led the prayers of commendation at the end of the liturgy. She mentioned that just a few weeks ago Sister Benedicta had told her "I'M ready".

The procession to the cemetery was led by the three priests in vestments. It was a beautiful day, the sun was bright, there was a good breeze with just a nip in the air and there were clouds moving across the sky. After the final prayers, we sang "We have a Holy Mother" while Sister Henrietta and the Sisters sprinkled the casket. The crucifix was given to Sr. Henrietta by Sister Mary Louise and the group returned to the house. Dinner was served immediately afterwards in Sacred Heart dining room. Father Giles and Father Don joined us for the meal.

We pause again to thank the Father for the reflection of his love in this gentle Sister who had such a delightful sense of humor and who was always so pleasant to everyone.

Lovingly in Jesus and Mary,

Sister Germaine Staller