



MARGUERITE SRILL  
March 26, 1987

Victory Noll  
Huntington, Indiana  
March 28, 1987

Dear Sisters and Associates,

"Planted in the house of Yahweh, they will flourish in the courts of our God, still bearing fruit in old age, still remaining fresh and green." (Psalm 92:13-14) Jerusalem Bible

On the day after the feast of the Annunciation, which marked the fifty-ninth year of her religious vows, Sister Marguerite Srill reached her ultimate freedom, when through the mystery of death, she entered into her new life in Christ Jesus. I like to remember this moment in Father Kilduff's description as, "our entering into a situation where we can embrace the will of God completely!" Sister Marguerite's is the third in fifty-one days.

Sister Marguerite had been in delicate health for many years. She returned to Victory Noll from Kendallville in 1969 to retire in the Holy Family community. She suffered several heart attacks and was hospitalized for congestive heart failure. In January of 1975, she felt well enough to travel to Tucson where she stayed for three months before returning to Victory Noll. In March of 1985, Sister was found to have Multiple Myeloma and received treatment at the Oncology Center in Fort Wayne. In November of 1985, it was necessary to have a pacemaker implantation to relieve her heart symptoms. In February of 1987, Sister Marguerite was again hospitalized for heart symptoms and on her return from the hospital, she was moved to third floor where oxygen was available when she needed it. Since that time Sister's condition became weaker until on March 25, she became confused and as her condition worsened, she went into a coma. With Sister Mary Loretta and many of the Sisters around her bedside, Sister Marguerite died quietly and peacefully in the Lord, Thursday, March 26, 1987 at 1:30 p.m.

Sister Virginia Schmitt made the public announcement of Sister's death and about fifteen minutes later, after many Sisters had assembled in the hallway, we had the Memorial Service prepared for those who donate their bodies to medical science. Mr. Parker of Hart Funeral Home came around three o'clock to take the body to Indianapolis.

Sister Marguerite spent 41 years of her religious life in the missions of Indiana, California, New Mexico, Texas, Alabama, Ohio, Wyoming, Missouri, Pennsylvania and Florida. Sister opened the mission at Grove Hill, Alabama and was one of the four Sisters who opened the first mission in California - that of Dos Palos.

Sister Marguerite was born September 20, 1898 in Chicago, one of seven children, four of whom became religious. She entered our Congregation from St. Catherine of Siena parish in Chicago, January 31, 1926 and made first profession of vows March 25, 1928. Sister celebrated her Diamond Jubilee last August 5, 1986.

Sister Marguerite is survived by Sister Mary Loretta of Victory Noll. All other members of her family preceded her in death.

The wake service was held Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. in Memorial Chapel. Sister Virginia led the prayer service and Sisters Frances Kowalewski and Florentine Lohr did the readings. After the rosary and Psalm 42, the service ended with the De Montfort hymn to Our Blessed Mother. An arrangement of pictures of Marguerite and her family were placed in a frame and put at the foot of the altar.

The Memorial Liturgy was celebrated by Father Giles, OFM, Cap., on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. Sisters Mary Joan and Madelon LoRang did the first and second readings,

Carmen sang the responsorial psalm, Father Giles gave the homily and Sisters Gertrude offered the prayers of the faithful while JoNoreen and Mary Cecilia brought up the gifts.

In his homily, Father Giles reminded us that in time of sorrow we need to come together to express by presence and prayer our mutual support. We also need to hear the hope-filled message of Scripture. He also spoke of St. Augustine's explanation of the words of I John: "We shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is." St. Augustine encouraged his readers to "make it your business to desire the divine vision." "The entire life of a good Christian is in fact an exercise of holy desire. You do not see what you long for, but the very act of desiring prepares you, so that when he comes, you may see and be utterly satisfied." Father Giles also reminded us that once again, as we bid farewell to a faithful religious, our faith firmly assures us that Sister Marguerite has extended herself toward the measure of Christ and is now filled with his glorious presence.

Sister Mary Louise's thoughts of Sr. Marguerite follow in part: "In her own quiet way, Sister Marguerite was an amazing woman. Long before there was an emphasis on women taking their place in the world of business, Marguerite had worked as a secretary and later became co-owner of a beauty shop where she met and enjoyed the public as she practiced her profession."

"Even in retirement Sister Marguerite's desire to serve creatively continued. As our dress became more modern, Sister Marguerite wanted to use her cosmetology background to help us with our grooming. With no little difficulty, she found a way to update herself in her profession and opened her third floor shop here at Victory Noll. Later, when the doctor advised her to give this up, she became interested and involved in another creative project - I.D.E.A.S. - the INDIANA DEVELOPERS OF ENRICHMENT ASSOCIATION FOR SISTERS that stimulated ideas for a fruitful retirement."

"Sister Marguerite was an amazing lady from a rather amazing family. With three sisters in our Congregation and a fourth, Mary, living with us for several years until her death, and many of us knowing Father Joseph, Ed and Irene, we feel that the Sroll family and our own has become in many ways one."

"Though Sister Marguerite has been deeply loved and close to all of us here at V.N., none of us, I'm sure, can feel the depth of your loss and grief, Sister Mary Loretta. In recent years, we have had the opportunity to see the sisterly love, devotion and care that you, Marguerite and Mary had for one another."

"Liturgically, we are deep into the lenten season when we focus anew on the mystery of death. We renew our faith in the Lord who died for you and me and Marguerite. We know Christ died not because of any death or darkness in Himself, but only to free us from the death and darkness in us. The God who revealed life to us and whose only desire is to bring us to life loves us so much that he wanted to experience with us the absurdity of death."

"Sister Marguerite's life and love were a reflection of a love that does not and cannot die - the love that we all will affirm and celebrate again on Easter Sunday. Now we wait in silent and simple hope and joy for the third day, the day of Resurrection, when like Sister Marguerite, we will be more alive than ever before."

Sister Marguerite's special banner, "Bloom where you are planted!" made me select Psalm 92:13-14 for her. It speaks to me of Marguerite. Though in delicate health over the years, she remained fresh and green and vibrantly healthy in her sisterly love of us. Again, the reflection of the Father's love shown to us through her!

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,

*Sister Germaine Stadler*