

NEWSLETTER OF OUR LADY OF VICTORY MISSIONARY SISTERS

Visions

January 2026

www.olvm.org

Art & Ministry

Celebrating the creativity
of the Victory Noll Sisters

St. Dorothy Anas



Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters is a community of women religious founded in 1922 by Father John Joseph Sigstein. The Victory Noll Motherhouse is located in Huntington, Indiana.

Victory Noll Sisters:

- Proclaim the Word of God
- Stand in solidarity with those living in poverty and oppression
- Foster justice
- Promote the development of leaders

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ON THE COVER

OLVM Sister Dorothy Anne Lengerich's pencil artwork of Michelangelo's "Pieta" sculpture is one of many artistic creations by Victory Noll Sisters throughout their history.

OLVM Photo

Many years ago, my first profession was as a photojournalist. I seemed to have a natural eye for it and, without patting myself on the back too much, I was pretty good at it. I understood how to capture a moment to tell a story, and how powerful a single image can be in conveying emotion—whether tragedy or triumph.

PERSPECTIVES ALONG THE JOURNEY

Art works in much the same way. It's why we have museums and galleries, and why we

place artwork on our walls and shelves. These pieces evoke something in us. They may recall a place we've been—or wish to be—or they may be a treasured creation from a child or friend that stirs love and gratitude.

Many of the OLVM Sisters have been artists and creators. In their life's work as missionaries, serving among the people they are called to accompany, it was only natural that they would weave artistic expression into their ministries.

Throughout their history, the Sisters have been resourceful, using whatever tools were available to reach out, form relationships, and meet people where they are. Art has helped bridge divides, open conversations, and offer moments of beauty and solace to those who are suffering. That sharing builds trust and helps relationships blossom.

Each edition of *Visions* continues to tell these stories of connection through the history of OLVM—how they began, how they continue today, and how they will endure into the future. ❖

— Paul Siegfried

CONGREGATION LEADER

Sr. Jenny Howard, SP

Visions is published multiple times a year by Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters.

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Sisters' service takes many forms

The opening section of the Constitutions of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters is entitled “*Charism and Mission.*” Section 1 states:

“Jesus, anointed by the Spirit, was sent by God ‘to bring glad tidings to the poor; to proclaim liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind and to let the oppressed go free.’ (Luke 4:18) We, Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, commit ourselves to Jesus and to his redemptive mission. We are called to serve God’s people.”



Sr. Jenny Howard, SP
Congregation Leader

As I read through the articles of this January issue of the Our Lady of Victory Missionary *Visions* newsletter it is indeed an issue of celebration! I am struck by the variety of ways in which the OLVN Sisters reach out to others through their ministry of art and music; their passion and action on behalf of social justice issues; their sharing in relationship with former OLVN Community members, and OLVN Associates; and their generous sharing of their financial resources through their annual Victory Noll Empowerment Grants, and through their Major Gifts. It is the ripple effect...who can actually grasp the number of lives that are touched by the ministry and mission of the OLVN community. Thank you for your interest and prayer. We are indeed all united in this Mission!

As we enter into this New Year – 2026 I am reminded of the reflection by Howard Thurman:

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins.

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations.
To bring peace among all,
To make music in the heart.

Wishing you blessings of joy and peace in this New Year - 2026! ❖

the Art of Ministry



Victory Noll Sisters have used their creative talents in advancing mission

By Paul Siegfried
OLVM Communications Coordinator

In founding Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, Father John Joseph Sigstein had the foresight to know his community would have to be adaptive and imaginative in ministry if they were to survive and advance their mission.

The OLVM Constitutions lay out the blueprint and the challenge:

We proclaim the gospel in creative and flexible ways ... continually evaluating and reforming the vision of our life and ministry in light of the signs of the times and the particular needs of the people. We are all called to participate in this process according to our unique gifts and limitations.

More than 100 years later, the formula has been successful. Sisters have been inventive in their ministries, drawing on their many gifts, including using artistic ability.

Artwork created by the Sisters has graced the walls of every building on the Victory Noll campus, nearly every mission center, and in the homes of family, friends, co-workers or even strangers. Countless pieces have been given to those in need of inspiration or just to lift a spirit with a beautiful scenic landscape.

Sr. Mary Louise Rowney has seen first-hand the reach of incorporating art into ministry.

“The special artistic gifts some of our Sisters have recognized and honed within themselves were very personal and are or were nourished and shaped by their study, reflection and prayer life which helped them become gifts they shared with others in and through their ministry, fostering a deeper connection with God, or understanding of scripture and the Christian message,” she says.

“Our Victory Noll Sisters have always been challenged to adapt their ministry to the circumstances around them. Adaptation requires sensitivity, reflection, and creativity. These same skills inspired our sisters who were gifted with special artistic ability. I believe they found their spiritual leadership enriched by the people and culture they served even as their artistic ability enhance the pastoral care they were giving.”

The following pages provide a snapshot of some of the art of Victory Noll Sisters. ❖



Sr. Dorothy Ann Lengerich

Of her many artistic creations, Sr. Dorothy’s beautifully-detailed pencil renderings (top) of the Pietá by Michelangelo are her masterpieces. Her visions of the original (above) provide unique angles of the sculpture depicting Mary holding Jesus after he was taken down from the cross.