



March 8, 1995

The Light of Christ has come into the world.  
(from The Light of Christ hymn)

Dear Sisters:

As we celebrated the Wake of Sister Mary Catherine Brohman, these words of the hymn we were singing seemed so appropriate.

Sister Mary Catherine Brohman died peacefully on Tuesday morning, February 28, 1995, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne. She was born on December 17, 1907 in Grand Forks, North Dakota, to Wendell Joseph and Margaret Theresa Marshall Brohman, the eldest of nine children. Three brothers, James; William; Wendell and one sister, Madeline, preceded Sister Mary Catherine in death.

Survivors of Sister Mary Catherine are a brother, Frank Brohman of Inglewood, California; three sisters, Marion Kaelin of Los Angeles, California; Margaret de la Torre of Northridge, California; Veronica Gregoire of Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Sister Mary Catherine Brohman entered Victory Training Institute in Huntington, June 30, 1926 from Grand Forks. She pronounced vows August 15, 1928 at Victory Noll. Sister served in missions of New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, California and Indiana.

The pioneer missionary years of Victory Noll Sisters coincided with the "Great Depression" years. In community with her Sister companions and with their Victory Noll spirit a lasting impact on people's lives was made. We quote from an interview that Sister Augustina Ortiz had with Sister Mary Catherine and was published in MEXICAN AMERICAN HARBOR LIGHTS - Las Señoras of Yesteryear - East Chicago, Indiana:

"The Mexican people have not forgotten Sister Mary Catherine Brohman and her tireless sacrifices to help during the Great Depression. She took people to the Community Chest or Township for relief. She guided them to the right institutes for help, filled out applications, interpreted for them at the doctors' offices and cared for the sick invalids in their homes. She consoled them with a quiet smile always."

After fifty-eight years in the missions, Sister Mary Catherine came to Victory Noll the summer of 1986 to celebrate her Diamond Jubilee with four of her classmates. Contrary to the plans she had made, she remained at Victory Noll. She became involved in various ministries at Victory Noll and also visited the nursing homes in town. In 1990 she retired to ministries at home. She was a member of the Prayer Ministry, wrote letters to prisoners, sewed and worked on her family tree. She spent time at prayer and community activities.

With all of Sister's limitations, healthwise, she continued as much as possible to care for herself and prepare for Jesus to call. She suddenly took ill Saturday evening, February 25, and was taken to Huntington Memorial Hospital. Later she had to be moved to Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne. Sisters from Fort Wayne and Victory Noll were with her much of the time. There was a change in her condition early Tuesday morning and she seemed to slip away quickly.

Wednesday afternoon at four o'clock, we prayed Office for the Dead and the rosary in Chapel. Near the casket was the book, MEXICAN AMERICAN HARBOR LIGHTS, dedicated to Sister Mary Catherine Brohman.

At seven o'clock that evening the Wake provided time for reminiscence. The spirit of Sister Mary Catherine's gratefulness has been experienced by many sisters.

Some close friends of Sister Mary Catherine from the "Harbor" area were unable to attend the funeral as had been planned. Mr. and Mrs. Fred (Sophie) Naravilla, Mrs. Araselia Ochoa and Sister Irene DeMeulenaere of East Chicago arrived Thursday morning. Sisters Martha Wordeman, Judith Turnock, Angeline Walczyk and Mrs. Helen Espinosa, Sisters Mary Matilda Spetter, Grace Golenberke, and Rose Zita Rosonke of Fort Wayne and Mrs. Helen Eisenhauer of Huntington were present for services.

Father Thomas Fahey presided at the Liturgy of Christian Burial. Sister Mary Catherine had chosen some beautiful readings: Isaiah 25 (6,7,9), 1 John 3 (1,2) and John 6 (37-40). Also the homily by Sister Martha Wordeman was closely knit with the readings.

Final Commendation and Service for Cemetery were prayed in Chapel due to weather conditions. However, quite a number of us walked to the cemetery, sang Dios Te Salve and participated in sprinkling the casket with holy water.

May the Light of Christ guide you, Sister, to a beautiful resting place where you may continue to love and serve Him forever. We wish to be remembered also as we will of you.

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,

*Sister Marjorie Curran*