

November 30, 1992

Dear Sisters and Associates,

Early in November, after a long and difficult struggle with cancer, Sister Helen Flaspohler was told by her doctors that there was nothing more they could do. Sister gradually accepted the fact that it was time to go home. On November 18 Sister Dolores Carlos and a Paramedic accompanied Helen on the flight by air ambulance to Indiana.

After a few days in the hospital, Sister was brought to Holy Family where she was made as comfortable as possible. She received medication and oxygen but her condition deteriorated rapidly. On November 23, at 4:48 p.m. Our Lord called her from this life. Conscious almost to the end, Sister recognized her sister, Edna, her niece, Carole Kelly, and the four Sisters who were at her bedside. Other Sisters gathered in the hall to pray.

Born September 8, 1917 in Batesville, a town in southern Indiana, Helen was the youngest of three girls. Their mother died when Helen was a very young child, and she went to live with an aunt and uncle who were childless. Later, a daughter, Edna was born to this family and she and Helen developed a very close bond as sisters. Helen received her secondary education at Immaculate Conception Academy conducted by the Franciscan Sisters of Oldenburg.

Helen entered Victory Noll in 1939 and was professed in 1942. Religious Education was to be her primary work during the next fifty years, however, administrative responsibilities, as well as other types of ministry would also be asked of her.

In 1950 Sister Helen was assigned to accompany Sister Mary Louise Perl to Detroit. There they were to assist Monsignor Ryan in establishing a Congregation to be known as Sisters, Home Visitors of Mary who would work with Detroit's Black population. Sister Mary Louise was elected to the General Council of our Congregation at the end of the first year. Sister Benigna Furst replaced her in Detroit, and Sister Helen stayed on for a second year with the young Congregation. We were pleased that Sister Elizabeth Harris, who now heads the Congregation, and Sister Mary Schutz, one of the original two candidates, were able to be present for Sister Helen's funeral.

Following her ministry in Detroit, Sister Helen served as Superior at our Opal Street convent in East Los Angeles, after which she was missioned to our house in Redlands.

After a year at Redlands, Sister Helen's next assignment was to the city of Denver. Here she would serve as Superior and Director of what was then known as Holy Ghost Youth Center.

Various missions in Texas would benefit from Sister's labors during the ensuing twenty-seven years, except for a year and a half devoted to furthering her education at Mundelein College in Chicago. In 1974 Sister was asked to serve as Area Coordinator for the Southwest. With the onset of her illness, it became necessary to reduce the amount of work Helen could do, but she was unwilling to give up. Sister tried to handle some household chores until the last month of her life. When Sister Dolores protested, Helen would say, "Please let me do what I can."

At the Wake Service Sisters Lucy Regalado and Beatrice Haines reflected on some of the ways in which Helen embodied the Victory Noll charism. Mentioned were her love for the poor, her outstanding spirit of hospitality, gentleness, a generous and giving nature, and the empathy which she felt for others, who inevitably found in her a "listening ear".

During the funeral liturgy, Sister Rita Musante based her homily on the readings which Helen had selected for this occasion. Rita concluded her remarks with the following:

"Perhaps the entire message of our readings today, the message of our Sister, Helen's life, is summed up in these words:

WAIT FOR THE LORD WITH COURAGE! BE STOUTHEARTED AND  
WAIT FOR THE LORD! (Psalm 27)

And the Jerusalem Bible says:

PUT YOUR HOPE IN GOD, BE STRONG, LET YOUR HEART BE BOLD!  
WAIT FOR THE LORD WITH COURAGE! WAIT - - - AND SEE!

Our Sister, Helen's life ON EARTH is finished - but perhaps now her NEW mission begins through these Scripture readings which she chose for us to ponder in the light of her life among us, and her resurrection in Christ."

We wish to extend our sympathies to Sister's immediate family and relatives, many of whom were able to be present for the funeral. We pray that Helen has begun her eternity of joy in God's presence. We take comfort in the knowledge that she will intercede for us.

In the peace of Christ,

*Sister Elizabeth Ann*

Sister Elizabeth Ann Evans, OLVN

November 27, 1993.

Dear Sisters and Associates:

MY SOUL IS THIRSTING FOR THE LIVING GOD, WHEN SHALL I SEE HIM FACE TO FACE.

We gathered in chapel Thanksgiving morning to pray the rosary after receiving word that Sister Mary Rose had gone to "see Him face to face."

Sister Mary Rose Conroy died at 9:15 A.M. very peacefully and quietly at Huntington Memorial Hospital. Sisters John Francis, Mary John and Camilla were with her.

Sister Mary Rose was the youngest in her family. She had three older brothers and one sister: Francis, Joseph, Mary and Father Robert, S.J. All preceded her in death. Sister attended St. Thomas Aquin School and Cleveland High School in St. Louis.

Sister is survived by a sister-in-law, Lucille, four nephews, Michael, Gregory, Russell, Patrick and their families. They live in the St. Louis and Kansas City, Kansas areas. They were unable to come to Victory Noll.

The morning of Sister's funeral arrived with sunshine that lasted all day. Rev. Carroll StuhlmueLLer, C.P., a long time friend of Sister, came from Chicago. He and Father Fahey concelebrated the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Sister Mary Rose had selected Isaiah 25: 6a, 7-9, 1 John 3:1-2 and John 6: 37-40 for the readings. In his homily, Father StuhlmueLLer mentioned the "look, see" theme within the choices. Father said it helps to understand that Sister's hope was far beyond what can be seen today. Her vision was directed toward eternal life.

After Father's homily, a chronology was read by Sister Janet:



1917 was a good year for the Conroy family.  
Mary Rose was born on February 27.

1936 was a very good year for our Congregation.  
Mary Rose entered on August 28.

1939 was another good year for Victory Noll.  
Mary Rose professed vows of poverty, celibacy and obedience on August 5.

1939-1993 good years were experienced in the states where Sister Mary Rose ministered: California, Colorado, Wyoming, Texas, New Mexico, Michigan, Utah and Indiana. Twenty-five of these years were spent ministering to and with our Sisters at Victory Noll.

1993 surpassed all previous years. On Thanksgiving Day Sister entered into new life with God.

Sister was in good health until the summer of 1993. She had a severe upper respiratory infection which affected her ears, causing a loss of hearing. This condition persisted in spite of medication. Various tests were within a normal range until October when a blood test showed severe anemia. Sister received a blood transfusion and developed mild pulmonary edema which responded well to medication. On November 23, Sister's condition suddenly became worse and she was taken to HMH by ambulance at 8:30 P.M. Sister was bleeding internally and suffering again from pulmonary edema. This is believed to have been caused by widespread infection which weakened her entire body systems. She failed to respond to medication and treatments.

Reminiscence over Sister's 57 years with us, her habitual friendly, cheery humor and Gospel-childlike style of living were mentioned repeatedly. She refused to be bogged down by the little crises of daily life. She encountered them prayerfully and graciously. She walked into each new day serenely. Her persevering faith, trust and love assured her that she never walked alone. Jesus and Mary were her casual companions.

Jesus walked the roads scattering graces, blessings and healings. Sister Mary Rosé (with her God within) walked the streets of many states, entered homes and left the spiritual impact of her presence. Walking the corridors of Victory Noll, she graciously blest us. She made a difference.

In the past several months, Sister Mary Rose expressed her joyful desire to "go home to God". She remarked, "I must take after my father. He often said he couldn't wait to go home to God."

Sister Mary Rose was our friendly, always helpful, Sister here for so many years that her presence is still strongly felt. We are gradually discovering the meaning of Father Stuhlmüller's remark before commencing the Liturgy as we "slowly, slowly give Sister Mary Rose back to the extended, welcoming arms of her Father".

Sister Mary Rose, Thanks for all the years  
Thanks for all the memories  
Thanks for being a delightful, caring image of God.

Sincerely in Our Lady of Victory,

*Sister Marjorie Curran*  
Sister Marjorie Curran

Victory Noll  
First Sunday of Advent 1971

Dear Sisters

Behold, I come very soon! (Liturgy of Advent)

The Lord did come very soon for Sister Elizabeth Turnis, much sooner than we expected. She had been seriously ill for some time, but the end came quickly. And what a beautiful end it was to her many years of consecration to Jesus and Mary!

Sister Elizabeth was conscious to the very last. As Father and the Sisters were saying the prayers for the dying, she just stopped breathing. With her at St. Joseph's Hospital in Fort Wayne were a Crosier priest who was taking the place of the regular chaplain over the holiday weekend, Sister Mary Elise Allmaras, Sister Frances Kowalewski, Sister Chrysostom Deliman, and one of the hospital nurses.

In June 1970 Sister Elizabeth had surgery at St. Joseph's, having become ill in Powell, Wyo., where she was on mission. She recovered enough to return to Powell in September. Last summer she came back to Victory Noll and was again hospitalized and given treatments. With the doctor's permission Sister spent the month of October with her sister Lorraine in Cascade, Iowa. This past month she joined the community in prayer and at meals and edified all of us though the pain was increasing and she must have suffered very much. Last weekend Sister was decidedly worse. Wednesday afternoon Sister Mary Elise took her to the hospital in an ambulance. The next day Sister went back intending to remain with Sister Elizabeth as long as she needed her, but the need was not for long. Sister died at 4:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Day. She had received Holy Communion that morning as usual. On November 11 she had received the Sacrament of the Sick in the beautiful communal ceremony we had that evening.

Sister's funeral was Saturday morning, November 27. Father Roger Veik, O.F.M.Cap., and Father Nevins concelebrated the Liturgy of the Resurrection and the Capuchin novices served. Father Gollner from SS. Peter and Paul in town, who faithfully comes out for every funeral, was there. Sister's family arrived Friday evening and took an active part in the Liturgy: Lorraine, her sister; Sister M. Antonine, O.S.F., her niece; William and John Kivlahan, her nephews, their wives and lovely children.

Sister Elizabeth Turnis was born September 11, 1903, in Cascade, Iowa. She and her sisters, Margaret and Lorraine, were very close. Their father died when the girls were very small, and their mother, in 1952. Margaret, who was married, died five years later. Sister Antonine, Bill, and John are her children.

Sister Elizabeth graduated from St. Mary's High School in Cascade and attended Visitation in Dubuque (then a normal college) for one year. She entered Victory Noll in February 1932 and was professed March 25, 1935. She made her perpetual vows in 1940. After a few months at Indiana Harbor, Sister Elizabeth went to Redlands in 1935. Three years later Sister was among the band who opened our convent in Ontario, Calif. Other missions where she served through the years were: Flemington, N.J., West Harwich, Mass., Richmond, Ky., and more recently, Powell, Wyo. Sister also served as head cook at Victory Noll from 1948 to 1952 when she went to Cedar Rapids with Sister Bridie for a year of census work.

Here at Victory Noll we have begun to pray Vespers according to the new Order the Church has given us. One of the petitions today asks the Father to give us grace "always to live in readiness until we receive the glorious revelation of your Son." Let us make this prayer our own, as Sister Elizabeth made it her own. Come, Lord Jesus!

Devotedly in Jesus and Mary

*Sister Elizabeth Anne Clifford*



All for Jesus through Mary

December 7, 1976  
Victory Noll  
Huntington, Indiana

Dear Sisters,

"Muchos anos vivio entre nosotros sin protestar," was the way Mr. Nick Alatorre expressed Sister Mary Alice Kelly's presence among the people of Coachella Valley in a poem he composed and read at her funeral Mass on November 29, 1976. Mary Alice had come to Coachella in 1941 staying until 1946. Then she returned in 1967 and stayed until her death at 2:35 a.m. on Saturday, November 27th. When she realized that she was dying of cancer, she asked that she might die there in the desert which had been her home for the past nine years. Since her profession in 1935, she had also been in New Mexico, Texas, Colorado, and in San Pedro and Santa Paula.

The Vesper Service at 4:00 p.m. on the day of her funeral was in two languages as was the 7:00 p.m. Mass prepared by our Sisters in Coachella with the priests of the parish. Her life was bilingual too, between two cultures and among many types of people. The people came to pay their last respects, walking, riding in Cadillacs or old Fords, some knowing no English; others, no Spanish. We saw the wide variety of people with whom she had worked. She was always herself in any situation, whether sorting clothes or giving a talk to the Sacred Heart group in Palm Desert. And it was hard for her to face the day when she no longer had the strength to minister. She went to the Center (the old church building) each day until her legs gave out.

It was in June of this year that Mary Alice had her operation for cancer. We thought it was successful and that she was cured. But in early September she had symptoms which caused her to return to the doctor. He found that the cancer had spread to her liver and that there was nothing he could do for her. Shortly after that, Msgr. Doran, director of Catholic Social Services, her boss and her friend, came to Coachella. When he saw how rapidly she was going down, he suggested that she try the drug, Latrile, which could only be administered in Mexico. Mary Alice agreed, but it was almost a month before they could get her an appointment. In the meantime, Msgr. Doran died of a heart attack. Mary Alice was more determined than ever to go to Tijuana. She felt that Msgr. would help her from heaven. By this time she could hardly walk.

One of her friends loaned us a comfortable car and we were able to drive to Tijuana where she entered the hospital. It took only a day for them to determine that they could not help her with any drug. So we took her back across the border where an ambulance met the car and returned her to the Indio hospital. It was hard for Mary Alice to accept the fact that she was really dying. Her sister, Catherine Drake, of Tempe, Arizona, was with her for about a month before her death. She stayed with the Sisters in Coachella during that time. Our Sisters in Coachella stayed with Mary Alice day and night these last two weeks of her life. Some of us helped a little and were happy to be with her these last days. She accepted both the long trip to Mexico and last days in bed with a smile and sometimes a joke; at times she said frankly that it was hard to be idle and wait for the Lord.

Mary Alice was born in Dubois, Pennsylvania, January 29, 1909. Six brothers and sisters have preceded her in death. Her brother, Francis A. Kelly was unable to attend the funeral. It was her sister, Catherine, and her husband Barney, together with about 40 Victory Noll Sisters, the priests and the people of Coachella Valley who celebrated the funeral Mass and prayed with Mr. Alatorre:

"Mother, Nun or Sister, as we called you,  
Rest in the arms of our God.  
You suffered much with resignation,  
And we will never forget you and today  
we only give you a goodbye."

Sister Charlene Talbott

P.S. (from Victory Noll)

Sister Mary-Alice's body was brought home to Victory Noll Wednesday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. As the weather was cold, we lined up in the corridor to meet the body with song and prayer. The wake service was held at 7:30 p.m. that evening.

The Liturgy of Christian Burial was celebrated by Father Michel, OFM, cap., on Thursday morning at 10:30 a.m. Father spoke of the Son of Man as the seed who had to die to have life to share after death. Jesus shared this life with Sister Mary Alice; He walked with her through life and especially in these last difficult months. What happened to Jesus happened to her so that she could be taken up with God completely. What became a victory in her is also working itself out in us. Her victory has been fulfilled! Each time God's love is triumphant in us, Our Lady of Victory is truly Our Lady of Victory and at no other time! Only when her Son's love does its work in us, does her life become fulfilled!

That morning we celebrated love made perfect in Sister Mary Alice. That same love is growing as a seed within us to be brought to fruition when the Father calls us to Himself.

Only a few of us walked out to the cemetery because of the extreme cold. All the prayers for the graveside services had been prayed in chapel, so Father simply blessed the body and after a brief prayer we returned inside.

My sincere thanks to Sister Charlene for giving us the details in her letter to the Congregation.

Lovingly in Jesus and Mary,

*Sister Germaine Staller*



Funeral services for Sister Rose Anne McBride of the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Victory, who died Friday, November 28, 1947, after a protracted illness, were held at the Motherhouse Chapel Monday morning at 9:00.

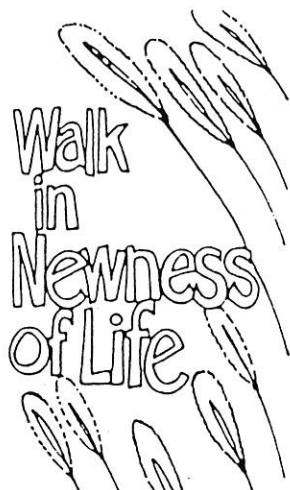
Celebrant of the Solemn Requiem High Mass was the Rev. James P. Conroy, Chaplain; the Rev. Ambrose De Groote, OFM Cap., deacon, and the Rev. Solanus Casey OFM, Cap., subdeacon. A number of local clergy were in attendance, as were the immediate relatives to the deceased. Burial was in Victory Noll Cemetery.

Sr. Rose Anne McBride was born May 26, 1913. She entered the community in the fall of 1932 from St. Edward's parish in Chicago. Before entering she was employed as a telegraph operator. She had spent 10 years of active labor in the missions of Indiana Harbor, East Chicago, and Gary in Indiana, Toluca, Illinois, and Monterey, California. She also attended Sienna Heights College in Adrian, Michigan, during the summer.

She is survived by her mother, Rose McBride, Thomas, a brother, and five sisters, Mrs. Paul Loeb, Mrs. Chester Paluch, Catherine, Regina, and Patricia, all of Chicago. Her father and one brother are deceased.



Victory Noll  
Huntington, IN  
December 6, 1991



Dear Sisters and Associates,

"They shall find rest from their labors, for their good works follow them!" (Revelation 14:13)

Sister Regina Foppe died peacefully in the Lord at 8:10 a.m. Friday morning, November 29, 1991, in the emergency room of Huntington Memorial Hospital.

On October 6, 1990, Sister Florence Garbacz brought Sister Regina back to Victory Noll from Tucson to recuperate from a fractured pelvis which had occurred when she fell in September. By the middle of March of 1991, Sister Regina was able to move from the third floor to second floor as she was able to care for herself and take part in some community activities. In March of 1991, she had a cataract surgery on her left eye. A year before, she had a cataract removed from her right eye. Because of her anemia and diabetes, Sister remained in rather frail health and for several weeks had not been feeling well. On November 15th, she returned to the third floor so that her blood sugar could be monitored more closely. Occasionally, she complained of minor chest pains. An EKG was done November 17th, but did not reveal any heart problem. Early in the morning of November 29th, Sister awoke with difficulty in breathing and chest pain. Sisters Lucy Marie and Christopher were notified and the ambulance called. Sister Regina was conscious of her condition. She asked for her rosary and that her sister Agnes be called. She died at 8:10 a.m. in the emergency room of Huntington Memorial Hospital.

As Sister Regina had donated her body to Medical Research, we prayed the special memorial prayers for her just before the Memorial Liturgy was celebrated on Friday.

Sister Regina spent 51 years of her religious life in religious education, social work and administrative positions in the missions of New Mexico, California, Nevada, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Vermont, Texas, Illinois and Arizona.

For 18 years, Sister Regina worked to improve the quality of life for the people of Lubbock. Through her constant efforts in favor of the poor, she became well known and respected by all officials, administrators and personnel on the local, State and Federal level of Government. She was a proponent of the Head Start Program which cared for many children. She also worked to get the lunch program started, convincing officials that poor children who went to school without breakfast and often without lunch, could hardly be expected to learn. The result of this program was the apparent progress of the students. Those who were thought to be retarded were soon found to be normal children, getting good grades! In May of 1970, when a tornado destroyed most of the northern part of Lubbock, leaving the Mexican Americans without homes, Sister Regina worked to get some 600 vandalized homes on the East side renovated so that the victims of the tornado could move into them rent free. Because of her untiring efforts of service, the Mayor of the City, proclaimed August 30, 1981 as, "Sister Regina Foppe Day" in the city of Lubbock.

Sister received her M.A. Degree in History and Government from Texas Technological University in Lubbock in 1976. She was Director of Christian Social Action in the

Diocese of Lubbock, Director of the Justice and Peace and Campus Ministry Office in DeKalb, IL. After an internship in Washington, D.C., she applied and was appointed Director of Catholic Detention Ministry for the Diocese of Tucson September 7, 1987. For her total commitment to this special ministry, she endeared herself to many and received the grateful thanks of the Catholic Community Service in the Diocese of Tucson.

Sister Regina returned to the Noll from Tucson October 6, 1990. This was a difficult adjustment for Sister to make after being involved in such a heavy schedule through the years, but she did accept her condition gracefully and with peace.

Sister Regina was the daughter of the late Paul and Mary nee Wessel Foppe and was born December 6, 1914 in Breese Township in the County of Clinton, IL. She was the oldest of six children. She entered the Congregation from the parish of St. Augustine in Breese September 17, 1932 and made first profession of vows September 8, 1935. She would have celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 1992.

Sister's family arrived in time for the Liturgy which was celebrated in Memorial Chapel at 4:00 p.m. Her sisters, Agnes with her husband Leonard Keevin from Highland, IL.; Bernadette Elling and her sister-in-law, Loretta Foppe from Breese; Henrietta Schaefer from Wellsville, Mo.; her nieces, Wanda Hudson from Pocahontas, IL., Lois Zollmer from Breese and Judy Keevin from Danville, IL. were present. We were grateful for the gift of their presence among us.

Father Fahey celebrated the Liturgy. Henrietta and Sr. Carolyn I. did the readings; the Schola sang the Psalm and the Alleluia Verse; Sr. Martha gave the homily; Judy Keevin offered the prayers of the faithful; Agnes, Bernadette and Loretta brought up the gifts.

In her homily, Sister Martha reflected on light...what it means to be born into the Christian Faith and truly live it. She used the imagery of candles...birthday candles...Advent candles...and the Christ candle of the Easter Vigil...dispelling the darkness of the world...of hearts...of the Church. She said the Lumen Christi calls out with great desire: "I have come to cast fire on the earth and what will I but that it be kindled!" The formula for kindling this fire: "To hear the word of God and keep it!" To hear Jesus' word requires silence, prayer and attentiveness. To keep the word requires compassion, discipline and guts! Both require dedication to love, discipline and study...life long study...to discern the needs of the times, the current flow of energy, when and where to speak out and the preaching of the word in season and out. Sister went on to say that when one is dedicated to love, many wonderful works follow and she went on to enumerate Sister Regina's ministeries. This is what it means to kindle fire on the earth for and with Jesus. She concluded her thoughts by praying that through Sister Regina's example and support, each of us will discover our own unique gift...our own spark to kindle the fire Jesus casts upon the earth.

At the end of the Liturgy, Father Fahey spoke to the family and said that about ten days before her death, she had come to him in the conference room and asked for a prayer to die. He composed the prayer for her. He thought it was so fitting that she donate her body to medical research as she had given herself so completely in the service of others.

How precious in the eyes of the Lord, is the death of his faithful ones! "They shall find rest from their labors, for their good works follow them!" Rev. 14:13

Prayerfully in Jesus and Mary,

*Sister Germaine Stadler* C.S.J.  
Sister Germaine Stadler, o.l.v.m.