



**SISTER ANN THERESE PLUM, OLVM** died peacefully on December 19, 2019, at Saint Anne Community at Victory Noll, Huntington. She was 98 years old.

Sister Ann Therese was born in Aachen, Germany on June 5, 1921. She was the fourth child and third daughter of John and Mary Eva (Senden) Plum. She was baptized Anna Therese on June 8, 1921. Two other siblings would be born later.

Her parents and all of her five siblings, Joseph and John Plum, Mary Karnitz, Gertrude Obernier and Josephine Schrimpf preceded Sister in death.

Sister Ann Therese immigrated to the United States in 1931 at the age of 10. Her father and older brother had been working in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, prior to the rest of the family joining them. She attended Saint Leo Catholic School and graduated from the Girls Technical High School.

Following her mother's death in 1943 and while caring for their father, Sister Ann Therese and her sister, Josephine, started to attend retreats in Milwaukee. One retreat director told her he thought she had a vocation to religious life. It was something she thought about for six months. Following much prayer and soul-searching, she finally started to research different religious congregations. The ministry of the Victory Noll Congregation provided what she was looking for, particularly teaching religion and working with the poor, which are foundational aspects of the congregation.

After a secret visit to Victory Noll with Josie, Sister Ann Therese quietly completed the application for entrance. She told the family at her brother Joe's wedding, then entered the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters on November 27, 1946. At the time of her entrance into the novitiate, she was given the name Ann Therese. Two years later, she made first vows on August 5, 1949. In her first 10 years she ministered in California and spent a year in Mont Rose, Colorado. She returned to Indiana to attend Saint Francis College in Fort Wayne, where she received her Bachelor of Arts in English. The Congregation asked her to serve as Mistress of Postulants (first year in the congregation), a position she held from 1962-65. She then worked in Religious Education in Michigan and Utah. She received her Master of Arts degree from Manhattanville College in New York. In 1971, she was elected to the OLVM General Council, serving as councilor and area coordinator for the Mountain Area. At the next election in 1974, she was chosen as Vice President, also serving as the Coordinator for Victory Noll.

While she was on the General Council in 1976, she and Sister Jeanette Halbach went to Rome for the Congregation. After the trip to Rome, she was able to visit Aachen, Germany, and the places of her early childhood. This trip delighted her in many ways.

She never lost her ability to speak German. A month or two before her death she recited a poem in German about violets. Just a day before she would take the final journey home to God, she sang a German hymn. She was very proud of her German heritage and it never left her.

After serving 10 years in leadership, Sr. Ann Therese spent two years in Utah before moving to Glendale, Arizona, where she ministered at Our Lady of Perpetual Help for 15 years. After living for two years in San Bernardino, California, she returned to Victory Noll in 2002. She volunteered in many different areas before fully retiring, although she never retired from her life of prayer and community living.

In all of her ministry experiences, whether within the congregation or beyond, Sister Ann Therese exhibited a strong well-grounded faith. She wanted everyone she came in contact with to have the same deep and profound relationship with God. This belief in God was often seen in her beautiful smile, in the twinkle in her eyes, and in the exuberance in her voice.

Sister Ann Therese shared her view on retirement. "I see retirement as the last lap of life's journey," she said. "The ongoing challenge of furthering the Kingdom remains although the ministry has changed." She found Victory Noll to be a place to grow spiritually and emotionally by participating in small groups, whether in a book study, discussion or praying the rosary. Sister Ann Therese's experience of retirement and her journey towards the fullness of life was best exemplified with reading, studying and socializing, interspersed with activities.

Sister Ann Therese's niece Katie Heinen and her husband Tom, and her nephew-in-law Sal Ales, joined the community for the vigil on Sunday evening, December 22, 2019. Father Dale Bauman presided at the Eucharistic Liturgy on December 23, 2019. It was a lovely, warm day as we took her to her final resting place in the Victory Noll Cemetery.

Even in the last days, Sister Ann Therese continued to believe and share her signature smile as she completed the last lap of her pilgrim journey back to the source of her life and the ground of her faith, God.

With gratitude and blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sr. Ginger Downey, OLVM". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Sr." and "OLVM" written in a smaller size below "Ginger Downey".

Sr. Ginger Downey, OLVM