

Victory Noll
July 22, 1971

Dear Sisters

Peace and joy to each of you in the Spirit!

Yesterday we celebrated the entrance into glory of another one of our Sisters, the fifth to die in 1971. Most of you (we tried to reach everyone but it is difficult at this time of the year) know by now that Sister Alice Marie James died Sunday evening, July 18, of injuries received in a car accident while she was on a home visit.

Sister arrived in Cincinnati Wednesday, July 14. On Saturday she took part in the silver jubilee celebration of her sister, Sister Ann Maureen, a Sister of Mercy. It was a joyous event for the whole family. Sister Alice Marie and her sister spent Sunday afternoon with some of the Sisters of Mercy talking over old times and reliving the highlights of the day before. Then the two of them, together with a family friend who had come from Michigan for the jubilee, started out for evening Mass. Ann was driving. It was raining heavily and somehow the car went into a skid on a freshly oiled road. They were struck by another car and still another car was involved, but the only injured one was Sister Alice Marie. She was thrown from the car, suffered a broken neck, and was dead on arrival at Providence Hospital.

Sister Magdalene Lenges and Sister Frances Meyer are both in Cincinnati this summer. They represented the community at the wake service Tuesday night. Early Wednesday morning the undertaker brought Sister's body to Victory Noll. The family and ten Sisters of Mercy (including the Provincial, Sister Mary Albert) came later and were here for the Mass and burial. Sister Magdalene came with them.

Father Keith met the body and after a brief service in chapel we prayed the rosary. The Eucharist at 11:00 was a concelebration with Father Keith as the principal celebrant (and homilist) and Father Alfonso Mirabal and Father Albert Mills, S.J. of El Paso, the other priests. Father Mirabal and Father Mills are attending the Pastoral Institute at Loyola in Chicago. Sister Mary John Sullivan drove down with them. Father Traub and Father Gollner, the two pastors in Huntington, were here also. Three Capuchin novices served. Father Nevins is in Europe or he would have been with us. He appreciated so much the help Sister Alice Marie gave him last year on the annual CCD edition of OSV.

Sister Alice Marie's nieces and nephews brought up the gifts and the extra chalices. Ezra, her oldest brother, had the first reading and Sister Agnes Ganse, who was professed at the same time Sister was, the second one. After Communion Father Mirabal paid tribute to Sister and at the same time acknowledged his debt to the Victory Noll Sisters. Father is a native of El Paso and always lived in the cathedral parish in which he now serves. The Sisters said he visited Sister Alice Marie every day when she was ill in the hospital during the past year. After we had sung "We Have a Holy Mother" at the grave Father Mirabal called for "Bendito." It was very touching and was just what Sister Alice Marie would have liked.

Sister's family is one of deep faith. In their sorrow they realize that the suddenness of Sister's going was really a great blessing for her. She had suffered a heart attack some months ago and was not yet up to par. She had been recuperating in Tucson and was worried about whether or not she would be able to resume her work in the fall. The doctor had warned her about over-exertion and was much concerned about her taking part in the Collegial Assembly.

Alice James was born in Bromley, Ky., October 2, 1911, the daughter of Cornelius James and Katherine Gilliard, both now deceased. The family moved to Cincinnati when Alice was small. After graduating from Notre Dame Academy in Cincinnati she attended the Athenaeum, a diocesan teachers' college in the city. She then taught elementary classes for several years before she entered the community in 1936.

Sister Alice Marie was professed August 5, 1939. After working in Indiana Harbor, Elko, Nevada, and in El Paso, Sister began studies at Siena Heights College, Adrian, Mich. She received her B.A. in 1947. Later she attended St. John's University, Collegeville, Minn., and in 1968 earned an M.A. in sacred studies. In the intervening years Sister Alice Marie served as religious education coordinator in several dioceses and in many parishes. For several years she was a faculty member of the summer sessions sponsored by the National Office of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine - in Seattle, San Diego, and San Antonio.

Sister Alice Marie is survived by one sister, Sister Ann Maureen, R.S.M., and four brothers - Ezra, Neil, Tom, and Bob, all of Cincinnati. Another brother was killed in World War II.

As Father Keith reminded us in his homily, for Sister Alice Marie the limitations of her human condition have been set aside. She is now able to live fully the glorious life she received on the day of her baptism. For us, too, may this beautiful life of the Spirit continue to unfold until we are united completely with the three Divine Persons for all eternity.

Devotedly in Jesus and Mary

Sister Elizabeth Ann