

October 1, 2001

"I shall know the fullness of Joy  
when I see your face, O Lord!"

Dear Sisters:

It was near three o'clock on a Friday afternoon as the announcement came over intercommunication. Sister Clare Marie Schnedecker just died. It was September 14, 2001.

Sister was in Holy Family Health Care Center. Sisters had been sitting with her that day and for this hour Sister Amelia Villanueva was at her bedside praying. Sister Clare Marie was not eating well for a few weeks and was bedfast. She had a peaceful death.

Sister Clare Marie Schnedecker was born December 1, 1916, in Hokah, Minnesota to Joseph and Clara (Tschumper) Schnedecker.

Sister entered Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters congregation, August 29, 1934 and made first profession of vows August 15, 1937. Her first mission was Gary, Indiana. Since then she has been missioned in Texas, Utah, Ohio, Missouri, and thirty-eight years in California.

The sentence opening this letter was found, handwritten, on a little piece of paper in her personal file. It seemed so real. That prayer or ejaculation is now answered. The fullness of joy is hers.

Survivors in her family are one brother and two sisters, Fred Schnedecker of LaCrescent, Minnesota; Lucille Lonkoski of Onalaska, Wisconsin; Helen Flannery, LaCrosse, Wisconsin and nieces and nephews as well as Victory Noll Sisters.

For one of her jubilees Sister Clare Marie wrote a very interesting article that included her decision on a community to join:

"I had often noticed the tiny pictures in Our Sunday Visitor that advertised the Missionary Catechists. I finally had the courage to write and request literature. About the same time a dear friend gave me several issues of the Missionary Catechist to read. I am convinced this led me in the right direction. I entered from the small town of Hokah, Minnesota."

Sisters have testified to the help Sister Clare Marie has given to the poor in her ministeries. She has a paper of appreciation from Toberman Settlement House in San Pedro, California:

"The volunteer service you have rendered Toberman has made the neighborhood a better place."

Present for the wake and funeral were: two nieces, Maureen Wieland of La Crosse, Wisconsin; Judy Harrington, Caledonia, Minnesota; friends, Jerry and Jeri Townsend of Gladstone, Missouri.

Father Fahey was presider for the Liturgy of Christian Burial. Sister Clare Marie prepared a list of some beautiful hymns and readings.

Father Fahey reminded us of the seed that is not planted. There is no harvest. We are seeds made for eternal life, not this life. We are seeds made to die to ourselves to gain eternal life.

Sister Clare Marie, you have been blessed and you have shared your blessings. Won't you continue to be a companion on our journey?

Sincerely,

*Sister Marjorie Curran*

General Secretary  
Sister Marjorie Curran

