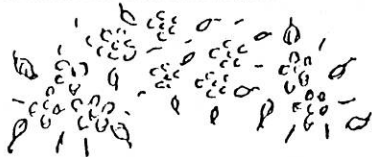


"TIL THE END OF HER DAYS, O LORD,
SHE HAS BLESSED YOUR NAME,
SUNG YOUR PRAISE,
GIVEN YOU THANKS." Ps. 8



Dear Sisters and Associates:

Monday morning, November 8, 1993, we laid to rest, our companion and sister, Sister Elizabeth Ann Clifford. She was the daughter of Timothy and Ellen Clifford, born October 8, 1909, in Chillicothe, Ohio. She had one brother, Edward M., and one sister, Sister Adele, SC,. Her brother and sister, as well as her parents have preceded Sister in death.

Sister Elizabeth Ann entered the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters on September 5, 1929, made her Act of Consecration on March 25, 1930, and professed first vows on March 25, 1933. She made perpetual vows on August 5, 1940.

Sister Elizabeth Ann has told her own unique story of her decision to follow a religious vocation, in an article titled, PEARL FOR A DIAMOND, published in A SEAL UPON MY HEART, edited by George Kane.

Since answering that call to religious life, her journey has been an eventful one and she has given every indication that she loved every mile. Sufferings seemed to plague her, yet she worked, studied and prayed for God's Will to be done in her.

Sister Elizabeth Ann was catechist in the missions of El Paso and Lubbock, Texas and Flat River, Missouri. For seven or eight years, she was the instructor for Scripture, Liturgy and Music at Victory Noll Junior College. Through the years she continued to be involved with liturgy and music at Victory Noll.

Sister Elizabeth Ann had written and in 1981 published THE STORY OF VICTORY NOLL. The story is a history of the first fifty years of the Victory Noll Sisters and has many accounts of our actual life in missions of U.S.A. She also wrote articles for OUR SUNDAY VISITOR, was editor of THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST and later our newsletter. She also spent many hours responding to letters from our benefactors.

At the 1962 General Chapter, Sister Elizabeth Ann was elected to the General Council. In 1968 she was appointed General Secretary for the congregation a position which she filled for four years.

Sister Elizabeth Ann suffered the past year with many health problems: severe osteoporosis of the spine, abdominal surgery, a fractured left hip. For almost two months she was unable to take any nourishment other than a few sips of a protein drink or water. She remained alert and the Sisters remained at her bedside many hours fulfilling her little requests and praying with her. She was always grateful for the visits and every little favor, especially from the nurses.

The last week Sister's pain seemed to be less severe and she slept more. At 3:00 o'clock on Thursday morning, November 4, the nurses called Sisters John Frances, Monica, Mary Rosella and Camilla. They stayed at her bedside until 4:00 o'clock when she peacefully and quietly died. Sister had requested her body be donated to science research so the usual prayers of commemoration were offered immediately. However, the anatomical board of the medical center has the option to accept or reject and later that morning word came that the body was rejected and there would be a funeral at Victory Noll.

The Sisters were joined on Sunday by nieces and friends of Sister Elizabeth Ann. We met the body at 4:00 o'clock and prayed the Office for the Dead and rosary in chapel. The Wake Service that evening included the hymns, Bondslave of Mary, Salve Regina and tributes from the Sisters and her niece, Sister Bridgid. Sister Carmen had mailed her words to be read by Sister Germaine of the very inspiring years she had spent working with Sister. The virtues of hospitality, gratefulness and welcoming us to Victory Noll in the summers were expressed often.

The sun was shining on Monday morning and more of Sister's friends arrived from Cincinnati, Ft. Wayne and Huntington as well as our Sisters from Ft. Wayne to pay last respects. The Gathering Song: SING TO THE LORD, written by EAC; music for the Order of the Mass was written by EAC and published in the Catholic Hymnal; Preparation Rite: MOTHER OF CHRIST, MOTHER OF US, written by EAC, were all a part of her funeral Mass. Father Fahey presided at the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Sister Rita Musante gave the homily on the readings Sister had chosen - Isaiah 12 (2-6), Romans 5 (1-5), John 7 (37-39) and Psalm 27.

It is interesting to note that Sister Elizabeth Ann had written these hymns for her Golden Jubilee celebration in 1979.

Among guests at the wake and funeral from out of town were: nieces: Bridgid Clifford, SCN, Nazareth, Kentucky; Ellen Clifford, Chicago, Illinois, Ann Clifford Weiland, Urbana, Ohio, Jane Clifford Klenotic, Copley, Ohio; and Jennifer Klenotic, Copley, Ohio, great niece. Friends present were Carol Rogers, SCN, Nazareth, Kentucky; Julia Pflum, SC,, Mt. St. Joseph, Cincinnati, Mary Declan Browne, SC, Mary Lea Mueller, SC, and Clare Kathmann of Cincinnati, Ohio. and her parents and also representatives from prayer groups in Ft. Wayne and Huntington.

"DEAR SOUL, NOW TAKE YOUR PART, ACCLAIMING GOD ABOVE: AND WITH A WELL-TUNED HEART SING OUT THE SONGS OF LOVE" from a hymn. Well done, SEA, we have been blessed by your company on this journey.

Christ's Peace,

Sister Marjorie Curran, O.L.M.