All for Jesus through Mary

Victory Noll
Huntington, Indiana 46750
January 12, 1982

Dear Sisters,

"We have seen the sign of the great King and we have come to adore Him, Alleluia!"
(Antiphon for Epiphany and Baptism of Our Lord)

Within this Christmas-Epiphany cycle wherein we have been graced by the birth of Jesus and His manifestation to the world, we rejoice with Sister Adelle, who, through the mystery of death, has entered into life to behold the radiant splendor of His presence!

Sister Adelle's death came quickly on Thursday morning, January 7, at 8:25 a.m. in the convent at Holbrook, Arizona. She had risen about 7:00 a.m. and said she wasn't feeling well. Sister Elaine fixed her a cup of hot sanka which she took while sitting in her rocker. Sister Elaine left the room and when she returned she noticed that Sister Adelle's breathing had changed. She called Father who came immediately and anointed her. By the time the ambulance and the police arrived, Sister had gone home to God.

In spite of the arthritic condition from which she suffered for many years, Sister Adelle spent fifty years in giving instructions to the young and the old. Twenty-four of those years were spent in California, sixteen in Arizona and ten in New Mexico. Even the evening before she died, she helped Sister Elaine prepare materials for the communicants.

As I paged through many old TMC magazines, I realized what a truly zealous missionary she was. One of her stories was particularly touching as she wrote of her visit (she termed it a pilgrimage) to the Imperial Valley after an absence of twelve years. When she saw all the wonderful changes in Imperial, El Centro, Heber and Niland, she sang the Magnificat and thanked God for her small share in helping to keep the faith alive in the Valley.

In her sixteen years at Holbrook, ten were spent among the Navajos in Tohatchi on the Indian reservation. Sister Adelle lived with her companion in a little apartment in the rear of the church. Two days out of the month they would return to Holbrook for retreat and rest. In one of her articles, she speaks of her apprehension about teaching the Indians. She had just learned of her appointment to Holbrook. But their good manners and quiet ways and her love for them made all things easy and she experienced no difficulties whatever. Sister made use of cassette tapes which explained the faith in the Navajo language and would go from hogan to hogan to see that each family was being instructed. She accomplished a great deal of good among the Navajos in Tohatchi and in the surrounding missions of the reservation. The Indians in turn respected and loved her.

In Santa Fe, she taught the parents who in turn prepared their children for the sacraments. When the parents thought their child was ready, Sister Adelle would make the examination. Often, she would have classes in the evening for the older students who were preparing for the sacraments. Even after a long day, she would find time to work a cross-word puzzle and make a visit to chapel before retiring.

It seems to me that Sister Mary Gertrude put her finger on the source of Sister Adelle's zeal when she said: "Sister Adelle had a great love for all children; she was zealous and totally uncluttered by self-importance. She was

cooperative and loyal to the congregation. She had a simplicity which included poverty, humility and honesty. The inner and outer aspects of her life were the same. She was completely honest!"

These thoughts of Sister Mary Gertrude clarified my own reflections of this season on "presence" with all its ramifications and the need to be totally absorbed in Christ Jesus so as to be uncluttered by self.

Sister Adelle was born August 24, 1898 in Neosho, Wisconsin and entered the Congregation September 4, 1929. She made first profession of vows March 25, 1933 at Victory Noll.

She is survived by three sisters: Mrs. Laurella Redig of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico; Mrs. Nelli Renner of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Miss Eleanor Heintz of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Because of ill health and cold weather, none of her sisters were able to attend the funeral. Father Michael Merkt, Brother Jerry and Sister Jan attended from Sts. Peter and Paul parish in Huntington.

Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Holbrook had its wake and rosary at 7:00 o'clock on Friday evening. The Liturgy of Christian Burial was celebrated by Msgr. Leo Gomez on Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. Sisters Effie, Agnes, Gertrude, Mary Elise and Lucy Marie arrived on Friday from Tucson to be a support to Sister Elaine. They also brought back Sister Christine who had been in Tucson for appointments.

Mr. Hart was unable to bring the body to Victory Noll until 6:15 p.m. on Monday, so although we had the wake scheduled for 7:30 p.m., we had it shortly after 6:15. We really didn't expect guests from the downtown parishes because of the cold weather and none came.

The Liturgy of Christian Burial was celebrated by Father Jim Hast,o.f.m. cap., at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday morning in Memorial chapel. Sister Elizabeth Ann Clifford, Sister Adelle's classmate, gave the homily and recalled some incidents of their early days at Victory Noll. She spoke of Sister Adelle's generosity and how she gave herself so unselfishly to the poor, the sick, the lonely and the ignorant because she saw Christ in them. She also made the point that it is the privilege of each Victory Noll Sister to perform these works of mercy. The homily was ended with the consoling words of the In Paradisum.

Sister Jeanette led the final commendation prayers at the end of the Liturgy. Since the weather has been so very snowy and cold, many of the Sisters remained indoors, however, quite a few brave souls walked to the cemetery. The sun was shining and it was quite cold, but a lovely day. Father Jim said the prayers at the grave, we sang the hymn to our Blessed Mother and returned to the house.

Again, we give thanks to the Father for the reflection of His love in Sister Adelle - a tremendous missionary!

Lovingly in Jesus and Mary,

Sister Germaine Stadler