



MARGARET MARY
DUNSMORE 2/20/87
Victory Noll 20 1987
Huntington, Indiana
February 23, 1987

Dear Sisters and Associates,

"Yes, they shall find rest from their labors, for their good works accompany them." (Rev. 14:13)

Our beloved Sister Margaret Mary died peacefully in the Lord Friday morning at 7:50 a.m. (February 20, 1987) in Holy Family Health Care Center just as the Community was beginning to assemble for Morning Praise.

This morning, on the feast of St. Polycarp, bishop and martyr, after the celebration of a meaningful liturgy concelebrated by Bishop Joseph Crowley and Father Giles Soyka, OFM, Cap., we came together in faith and hope to lovingly place the remains of Sister Margaret Mary to rest and to express again our gratitude to God for the reflection of his love in this talented and faithful Victory Noll Religious who guided and managed the financial affairs of this Congregation for so many years in such a commendable way.

Sister Margaret Mary enjoyed good health and was very active until October 31, 1975 when she suffered a subarachnoid hemorrhage. She made a surprisingly good recovery and was able to resume her usual activities and varied interests. In October of 1978, she became ill while on a home visit in Duluth, Minnesota and was hospitalized for congestive heart failure. This was her last visit home. In the fall of 1986, Sister Became noticeably less active and more lethargic. She continued going to the dining room and watching the news until December. She became weaker all during January and in spite of frequent visits from the doctor, her strength failed and on February 20, 1987 at 7:50 a.m. on Friday morning, Sister Margaret Mary died peacefully. Sisters Camilla Cray and Madeline De Groot and charge nurse Shirley Schockley, Sisters Gertrude Sullivan, Florence Garbacz, Kathleen Leven and Mary Genevieve Dziedzic were present when she went home to God.

Sister Margaret Mary spent the first eight years of her religious life in the missions of Indiana, New Mexico and California when she was recalled to Victory Noll in 1938, after the first canonical elections, to be appointed general treasurer, a position she held for the next thirty years in the Congregation. From 1948 until 1951, Sister also served as superior in the Gary mission house while continuing her duties as general treasurer. In the 1950's she taught summer school in Bremen, Indiana for five summers and for three years, taught on Sundays in Lagro while Msgr. Crowley served the parish as pastor and lived at Victory Noll.

In Sister Margaret Mary, we had another naturalist and bird watcher. She too, carried her binoculars with her for any opportunity to watch the birds. Friday morning, shortly after her death, Sister Mary Joan took a walk toward the villa. On the way, she saw and heard the Brown Creeper singing so sweetly. It seemed to Mary Joan very significant as it was early for the bird to be back. The Brown Creeper was the first bird she identified when Sister Margaret Mary went out with her to show her how to use her new binoculars many years ago.

Sister Margaret Mary was born March 23, 1895 in Duluth, Minnesota. Next month, she would have celebrated her ninety-second birthday. She went to business college and then obtained a position with a large shipping firm in Duluth where she was in charge of credit and traffic work for the firm. It was during her years there that she obtained a very solid knowledge of finances which served her so well in her position as treasurer of the congregation. After the death of her mother, she entered the congregation from Sacred Heart Cathedral parish on July 14, 1928 and

made first profession of vows August 15, 1930 at Victory noll. She celebrated her Golden Jubilee in 1978.

Father Giles led the prayers at the wake service. Sisters Virginia Schmitt and Mary Joan Ginsterblum did the readings. Present for the service was Mrs. Driscoll from Urbana and Mr. and Mrs. Philip Andorfer of Fort Wayne.

The Liturgy of Christian Burial was concelebrated by Bishop Joseph Crowley and Father Giles, OFM, Cap. Sisters Dorothy Marie and Kathleen Leven placed the pall on the casket, Sisters Joan Arnold and Kathleen Cummings did the readings, Carmen, the responsorial psalm, Florentine, the prayers of the faithful, Christine and Camilla brought up the gifts. In his homily, Bishop Crowley said that we all have our memories of Sister Margaret Mary, but most of all, we have the conviction that she was a woman of deep faith. She was a liberated woman long before we heard of the term, because she was liberated from the petty little things that would keep her from loving God and others. She used her talents to help put the Community on a sound financial basis and she gave herself completely to God. Perfect happiness, he continued, is found only with God and so we should rejoice with Sister Margaret Mary who has gone to the Lord. She is there with those who speak only the language of love.

In giving her thoughts of Sister Margaret Mary, Sister Mary Louise said in part: "Thirty years of faithful stewardship of the Congregation's material resources! Thirty years of wise financial planning and management that laid the foundation that enables us today to have corporate resources that we can use in favor of the poor and to influence policy and practice for the gospel values of peace and justice as well as resources for the care of our own personnel!"

"But what are we to learn from the life of our Sister? Two things occur to me. Although Sister Margaret Mary was responsible for the faithful and astute management of the Congregation's resources for a significant part of her life as a religious, she lived her life unencumbered. Unencumbered by the tenacious clinging to her own preferences, for it is my understanding that Sister loved the catechetical ministry and probably would have preferred that to administrative service for the Congregation. But her happiness, joy, peace and serenity did not depend on preferred things, persons, or situations, but on the treasure she held within and her openness to use her own time and talents in such a way that the ministries of others in the Congregation were enabled and enhanced."

"Secondly, Sister Margaret Mary seemed to have developed a sense of the gift of life. She enjoyed nature, had a sense of the infinite bounty of God and a capacity for the enjoyment and for the sharing of simple pleasures: Sister's keen mind was always at work, whether reading the Wall Street Journal, bird watching or discussing current events. In my last conversation with Sister, I tried to express, though inadequately, our gratitude for her remarkable service. Her simple response was, 'Well, I tried to do my best'."

"We have said that the greatest asset of the Congregation is the life of every member. The life of Sister Margaret Mary is certainly an example of this. And so we celebrate the gift she was, the gifts she has given to us, and the gift of life everlasting that she now enjoys."

It was a beautiful day and the walk to the cemetery was pleasant. After the graveside prayers, went to the dining room to enjoy a tasty dinner prepared by Vince and the cooks. Bishop Crowley and Father Giles stayed for dinner as did Mr. and Mrs. Driscoll from Urbana.

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,

Sister Germaine Stadler
Sister Germaine Stadler. olvm