

November 27, 1996

Dear Sisters:

"I want to walk as a child of the Light
I want to follow Jesus
God set the stars to give light to the world
The star of my life is Jesus."
from I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD

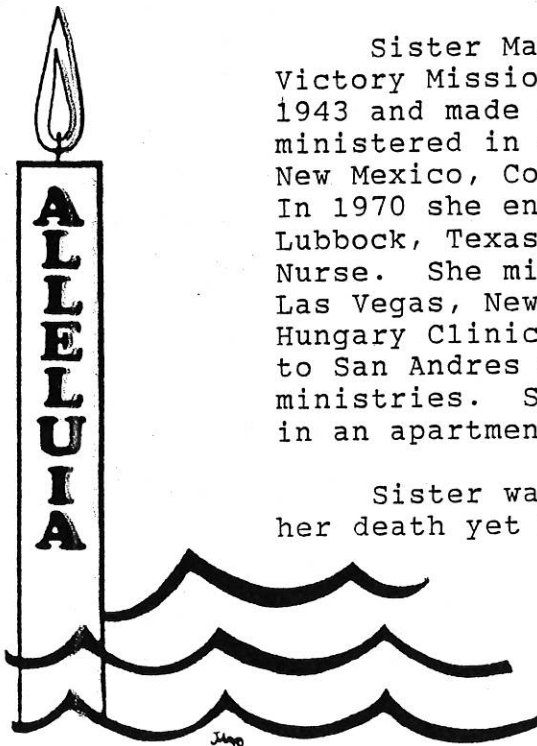
These words are so reminiscent of Sister Mary Colette Corcoran. They were sung at her Wake Service.

Sister Mary Colette died suddenly, November 22, 1996 apparently from a heart attack. A neighbor in the apartment complex noticed the light on and drapes open. She called the apartment manager. The manager called the paramedics and notified Sister Dolores Tringl who lives in the same complex. Sister Roseanne Palmer had shared the apartment but was away on retreat that week. Sisters Janet Thill and Cecilia Marie Renk were in Tucson at the time attending a community meeting of CAR, Commission on Aging and Retirement.

Sister Mary Colette was born September 5, 1912 in Chicago, Illinois to Jeremiah and Catherine Lynch Corcoran. She attended the parish school, St. Margaret, and Academy of Our Lady. After graduating from high school she worked as comptometer accountant in Chicago.

Sister Mary Colette entered Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters Congregation October 28, 1943 and made first vows August 5, 1946. She ministered in religious education programs in New Mexico, Colorado, Ohio, Iowa and Massachusetts. In 1970 she entered The School of Nursing in Lubbock, Texas to become a Licensed Practical Nurse. She ministered in the medical field in Las Vegas, New Mexico and St. Elizabeth of Hungary Clinic in Tucson. In 1989 she retired to San Andres St. convent and volunteered in ministries. She later joined Sister Roseanne in an apartment.

Sister was not feeling well the week before her death yet had been actively involved in her



retirement ministries. She spent Wednesday evening with the CAR members and Sisters gathered in Tucson. She was entertaining all. It was as surprising to those Sisters as to any of us to hear of Sister's death.

Arrangements were made for a viewing and prayer service in Wolfrey Peace Chapel, Tucson, for Sunday afternoon. The body arrived in Huntington Monday evening and was brought to Memorial Chapel for viewing and rosary Tuesday afternoon. Some of the family were able to be with us for the evening wake service. The Sisters recalled good times with Sister Mary Colette. Sister Frances Meyer mentioned the tornado of 1970 in Lubbock when she saw Sister assist many seeking shelter and medical aid as their homes were destroyed and injuries were sustained. There were many deaths. Others spoke of her sincerity and generosity. There were refreshments served later for all who gathered to meet and visit with the family.

Sister is survived by a brother, who is also her godchild, Rev. Edward G. Corcoran of Berwyn, Illinois; 3 sisters, all of Illinois, Agnes Spicer (John) of Hometown; Helen Biesen and Hannah McLeod, both of Tinley Park. Hannah was unable to attend the funeral because of illness. A niece, Cathy McLeod of Cincinnati, Ohio; 2 nephews, Joe McLeod of Tinley Park and John E. Biesen of Orland Park, Illinois attended the funeral as well as Sisters Dolores Carlos, Mary John Sullivan and Mary Ruth Kramer

Father Corcoran presided at the Mass of the Resurrection Wednesday morning. His homily on Sister's life and mission was an inspiration.

We walked to the cemetery in slightly inclement weather. Father Corcoran led us in prayer and we concluded with "We Have A Holy Mother" and the sprinkling of the casket with holy water.

Lives have been helped and enriched with the aid of Sister Mary Colette. May she rest in the peace of Christ and continue to reach out and aid us.

Sincerely in Our Lady

Sister Marjorie Curran

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General Secretary