



SR. MARILYN SCHATZ, OLVM, 92, died June 12, 2020, at Saint Anne Community at Victory Noll, Huntington, Indiana.

Sister Marilyn was born in Ellicott City, Maryland, on April 10, 1928, the middle child of George Schatz and Margaret Lapole Schatz. She was baptized Doris Mary on April 22, 1928, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Ilchester, Maryland. Her parents; three brothers, George, Richard and Wallace Schatz; and two sisters, Mary Wall and Aleda McCormick, all preceded her in death. She is survived by her sister, Thelma Amato of Ellicott City, Maryland; and her nieces and nephews. She is also survived by her Victory Noll Sisters with whom she shared life and community for 73 years.

Sister Marilyn entered the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters on October 30, 1947, and made first vows on August 5, 1950. She served in New Jersey, Alabama, Michigan, Texas, West Virginia, Maryland, New Mexico and Kentucky. Throughout her years of service, Sister Marilyn served mainly in religious education.

Sister Martha Molohon lived with Sister Marilyn in both Imlay City, Michigan, in 1978, and in her last parish in Columbia, Kentucky, in the early 2000's. She recalled their time together in Imlay City, talking about their adventures on bicycles they bought at the parish rummage sale.

Sister Marilyn had said one of the most challenging places was at Good Shepherd Parish in Columbia, Kentucky, as a Pastoral Associate and teaching religious education. Even though it was challenging, she and Sister Martha Molohon made their home there and became an active part of Good Shepherd Parish. The Sisters taught religious education and assisted the parish priest with pastoral needs. Sister Marilyn offered to become part of the parish volunteers who visited the homebound weekly, taking Communion to those not able to attend Sunday Mass. She would also share what was going in the parish and the local community. Sister Martha remembered the elderly couples who shared their Sunday dinner with them. She added the people loved Sister Marilyn because of her outgoing and friendly personality.

Good Shepherd Parish held a farewell event for Sister Marilyn and Sister Martha, and a tribute was written on the back of the program. It read, "Marilyn, you have always been known as the jovial one who likes to talk. While you Martha, seem content to listen."

Prior to serving Kentucky, Sister Marilyn worked at El Santuario de Chimayo, in Chimayo, New Mexico. She gave tours of the Shrine and directed elementary religious education for the parish of the Holy Family. In some of Sister Marilyn's writings was a quote from her time in Chimayo, "I had the privilege of working at the sanctuary for a year, and seeing the thousands of people that came each year all with their wonderful stories of healing and those who have come to be cured, (it) was indeed an inspiration."

Sr. Marilyn returned to Victory Noll in 2009 to serve as Sacristan for Archbishop Noll Memorial Chapel. In 2010 she became what we call a "Personal Needs Assistant," where she companioned the Sisters who lived in Holy Family Building and needed a little extra care and attention.

The unusual situation created by the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to change our usual rituals of a vigil and a Eucharistic liturgy. We honored and celebrated Sister Marilyn on Monday, June 15, 2020, but without the gathering of all the community, family and friends. In this different atmosphere, we brought her earthly remains to Archbishop Noll Memorial Chapel for a viewing for the Sisters who reside in Saint Anne's Community at Victory Noll, and then to the Our Lady of Victory Chapel where she had professed her first vows and started her journey as a Victory Noll Sister nearly 73 years ago. On this day, we sent her not to an earthly journey, but to her final journey to her eternal home with God.

As a last loving gesture to Sister Marilyn, Sister Martha Molohon picked a few wild daises and placed them in Sister Marilyn's hands. When asked, Sister Martha replied, "She always liked flowers, and there were so many of them blooming right now. I thought she would like them."

Sister Marilyn, may you now rejoice with our Mary, the Mother of the Incarnate Word, and share with all the saints in eternal life.

With blessings and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sr. Ginger Downey O.L.V.M." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sr. Ginger Downey, O.L.V.M