

Celebrating Sister Regina

Victory Noll
P. O. Box 109
Huntington, Indiana 46750

December 28, 2001

Dear Sisters, Associates, Family Members, and Friends,

As the Victory Noll Community praised God during Vespers for the third Sunday of Advent on Saturday, December 15th, Sister Regina Torzewski slipped peacefully into her "new life."

For almost one year, Sister Regina knew her final day would soon be coming. She writes in her monthly January, 2001 letter to more than eighty of her friends, family members and benefactors, "Life is a precious gift from God, and the greatest act we are asked to perform in life is dying. It seems that I will soon be called upon to perform that act. On the day before Christmas I was diagnosed as having cancer of the pancreas. I am at peace with my condition." She modeled that "peace" during the year. She was cheerful amid pain. She participated in as many community functions as possible. It was only on her last day of earthly life that she requested to be alone.

When asking Sisters what themes characterize her life, some say that "keeping friends" and "writing well" stand out among others. While Sister Regina used her gift of writing through her monthly letters to friends and family, contributions to Victory Noll publications and the composition of poetry, she also contributed to the Congregation by editing the Missionary Catechist three different times during her life. The Community recognized her gift, yet she claimed she had a hard time acknowledging it.

Sister was born to Jacob and Katherine Torzewski on September 6, 1907 in Wausau, Wisconsin, the ninth of twelve children. She entered the Congregation in October, 1928 and was professed in April 1932. She served at Victory Noll, in California, Colorado, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, and returned to Victory Noll in 1985 to do the ministries of reflexology, communication and hospitality.

Sister's wake was held at Victory Noll on Monday, December 17th and the Mass of Christian Burial the next morning. Because of ill health her sister, Esther Corrigan, of Amherst, Wisconsin and her brother, Edward Torzewski, of Humboldt, Tennessee were unable to travel for these events. Her sister, Rose Pommer, who resides at Victory Noll, attended the liturgy. Other family members present were Sister Regina's two nieces, grandniece and grandnephews, and great-grandnieces and great-grandnephews: Joan (niece) and Jerry Anklam, Theresa (niece) and George Chizmadia, their daughter Debbie Chizmadia Miller, her husband Victor, their three sons George Chizmadia, Duane Chizmadia, and Gerald Chizmadia, his wife Dana and their children Benjamin, Gerald Joseph, Christina and Stephanie Chizmadia. Family members actively participated in the liturgical service. Several friends came from far and near to pay tribute to Sister.

Father Thomas Fahey, the Victory Noll chaplain, described Sister Regina's death as "celebration" during the homily of the Mass. "We are celebrating her victory. She kept the faith, fought the good fight, finished the race and won—that's something to celebrate!"

We, the Victory Noll community say "Good-bye" to Sister Regina, but not for long! Sister writes: "There is an old German proverb that says, 'They who live and die in Christ never see each other for the last time, or say good-bye forever.' Thanks to Jesus for opening heaven for all of us."

In God's peace, joy, love...

Sister Dolores Tringl

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General Secretary
Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters