

All for Jesus through Mary

Victory Noll
Huntington, Indiana
November 18, 1977

Dear Sisters,

"Rejoice always and never cease praying . . . !" (2 Thes 5:16)

This timely bit of wisdom from St. Paul seems to describe in a special way our beloved Sister Mary Genrose who slipped into eternity very quietly early Thursday - Nov 17, morning. It seemed fitting, too, that it was on the feast of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, who shared such a tremendous love for the poor.

We are grateful to the Father for the reflection of His love in this woman who loved much, prayed intensely and had such a delightful sense of humor. She radiated a sense of joy to all.

Sister retired from the missions and returned to Victory Noll in 1969. Even in her retirement she kept up an incredible amount of correspondence with benefactors. The correspondence with these benefactors came about many years ago when an ad was placed in the New World asking for help for the poor in her mission. The results were overwhelming! After that, wherever Sister went the boxes for the poor were sure to follow. Through the years, Sister always managed to answer each donor personally and to pray for his/her needs. She would jot down these requests for prayers on small pieces of paper so she wouldn't miss any of these specific intentions. She kept in touch with all these benefactors until a few years ago when Sister Clarice May lovingly took over the correspondence for her.

Medication for a heart condition was started in 1970 and continued until the time of Sister's death. Congestive heart failure, which eventually caused her death probably started about two years ago. The effects of this illness never kept her bedfast for any length of time until the middle of last October when she was hospitalized for ten days at the Huntington Memorial Hospital. After returning to the Noll on October 24, she was bedfast for another week, but gradually her strength returned and she was able to be up and about and be present at the daily Eucharistic celebration.

She must have had her moments of perkiness at the hospital for she sang her favorite song, "We've been to the Mountain," over and over to the delight of the staff. Here at home she sang it with one of the Sisters. When asked if she wanted the song sung at her funeral, she quipped: "Oh, let's not get too serious!"

On Saturday, November 12, Sister became worse. Extreme weakness and shortness of breath made it necessary for her to be bedfast. She lapsed into a coma later in the day. On Sunday afternoon, about five o'clock, Father Martin Pable, ofm cap., anointed her. The coma continued throughout Monday and Tuesday during which time the Sisters took turns staying with her day and night. Wednesday morning she rallied for several hours, took some nourishment, recognized those around her and issued a few "orders" to the nursing staff. Later she lapsed again into a deep sleep and remained in that condition until her death at 1:35 a.m. Sister Camilla and Mrs. Tyler, the night nurse, were with her when she gave several short coughs and was gone.

Sister Mary Genrose was born on March 7, 1895 in Joliet, Illinois and entered the Congregation from Chicago, December 27, 1925. She made her first profession of vows at Victory Noll on March 25, 1928.

Sister was the last living member of her family, having three sisters and two brothers precede her in death. She is survived by a niece, Mrs. Rita Leigh of Norwalk, Connecticut and a nephew, Mr. Jack O'Brien of Alsip, Illinois, neither of whom were able to attend the funeral.

Since the Capuchin Fathers were away for the day, Father Robert Traub from St. Mary's in Huntington celebrated the Liturgy. He was assisted by two of the Capuchin Brothers. In his homily Father likened Sister's call and response to a busy missionary life with that of St. Paul. In each instance the call and response entailed a great deal of personal commitment, talent and energy. Both could claim faithfulness. It was at this point that my comparison took a different turn and I found myself placing Sister's busy missionary life and later retirement within the context of her devotion to Our Blessed Lady of Victory. In imitation of Mary, she was a woman of prayer and completely faithful in her commitment as a religious. Her faithfulness was the expression of her deep love. Because she loved, she went freely and with joy to the Lord! We rejoice with her!

Lovingly in Jesus and Mary

Sister Germaine Stadler