

August 29, 2010

Dear Sisters, Associates, Family, and Friends,

Sister Dolores Carlos went home peacefully to God at 9:50 a.m. on Friday August 6, 2010 at Parkview Hospital, Huntington. Sister Ann Shirley and Nancy Birch, Director of Nursing at Victory Noll were with Dolores when she died. Dolores had surgery for a hernia. After surgery, her blood pressure and oxygen level failed to return to normal. On Thursday evening she seemed to improve, but at 1:00 a.m. Nancy called Sr. Betty who was Dolores's Health Care Representative to say Dolores was not doing well. They went to the hospital and stayed with Dolores until morning. In the morning, Dolores was responsive but could not speak. We prayed with her, she was peaceful and ready to return to God. While in the hospital Fr. Fahey had anointed Dolores, she was responsive and pleased that he came.

Sister Dolores had been recovering from a successful knee replacement surgery. She was doing very well and looking forward to returning to her mission in the Imperial Valley, Calif. in September. Her death was untimely and unexpected and left everyone shocked. It made us realize that we know not the day or the hour and need to live each day in God's presence as though it were our last.

Sister Dolores was born in Selma, Calif., on March 12, 1926, to Luis Carlos and Guadalupe Paz Carlos. One brother, Joseph M. Carlos of La Verne, Calif., and one sister, Mary Landeros of Azusa, Calif., survive her. Three brothers preceded her in death: Luis Francis Carlos, Guadalupe Carlos, and Jesse Carlos.

Sister Dolores entered the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters on January 3, 1947. She made her first Profession of Vows on August 5, 1949, and Perpetual Vows in Redlands, Calif., on August 5, 1955. Dolores served in the Missions of Indiana, California, Utah, Texas, and Colorado. She was presently missioned to Imperial, Calif. There she was working with Hispanic people whose Mission Church was recently closed due to a shortage of priests. She was a reconciling presence among them as they dealt with their pain of loss, because they could no longer have Sunday Mass in their Mission Church. She offered Spiritual Counsel, Prayer Services, Bible Study, and Religious Instruction at the Mission. She also visited their homes, and was an advocate for justice among them.

Sister Dolores pursued her college education and received a BA Degree in Sociology from Brescia College, Owensboro, Ky., and an MA in Religious Studies from Incarnate Word College, San Antonio, Texas.



Dolores served with enthusiasm, and untiring dedication as Director of Religious Education, Pastoral Assistant, Hispanic Ministry Advocate and in Parish Outreach in many parishes throughout the country. She was greatly loved by the people. She was available day and night to assist them with whatever needs they had, be they spiritual, physical, emotional or for the basic needs of food, clothing and shelter. If she could direct them to the right place for help she would do so. She also often acted as an interpreter for the Spanish-speaking, and provided transportation as needed. Tony Fisher from Ligonier describes Sister Dolores as relentless in her mission to help and comfort others. He shares that when his wife Pat was diagnosed with cancer, Sister Dolores would visit every morning and bring Communion to her. When possible she would also stop in the evening to comfort her with her presence and prayer. After Pat's death, Dolores would stop at Tony's office to see how he was doing. Even after she moved to California, on her return to Victory Noll she stopped by to see how he and his family were doing. He said Sister Dolores will always have a special place in his heart.

On October 18, 2000, Sister Dolores received the Catherine Sienna Award given by the Association of Directors of Religious Education in Indiana. This award was given for her work in Faith Formation. Criteria for the award included being a model of lifelong faith formation, and a pioneer in the field of ministry. The article concluded by saying, "Our Community is better because of people like Sister Dolores, who truly live their faith and put the needs of others before themselves."

At the Vigil Service on Tuesday evening, a large group of parishioners from St. Patrick's Parish in Ligonier participated. Many memories of Dolores were shared by them and by our sisters. Enid Roman-de Jesus Director of the Diocesan Office of Hispanic Ministry in Fort Wayne said, "Sister Dolores was loved very deeply and felt very deeply. She made a big difference in this Diocese. She gave her life and soul to the people and really gave everything she had." Lourdes de Silva, a staff member of the Diocesan Office for Hispanic Ministry remembers Dolores as a very determined person. She spoke of her dedication and contribution to prison ministry and Hispanic ministry in Ligonier, Goshen, and Elkhart. Sister Dorothy Anne shared that for several years Dolores was asked to proclaim the Gospel or one of the readings in Spanish at the Cathedral in Fort Wayne for the Holy Thursday Liturgy. Dorothy Anne said, "I felt proud of her, she did such a good job." Patricia Gomez, Dolores' niece from California shared that Sister Dolores loved using her computer. She would call Patricia when she had a computer question and Patricia would tell her, "You have to take your time, you can't rush it." Patricia said that she bought a 1965 Mustang thirty years ago and Dolores still loved to ride in it whenever she visited Patricia. "Sister Dolores was my aunt, a Sister, and my friend." Father Jose Luis Villanueva sent a message from Mexico. He states "What sad news. Sister Dolores was a great example to all of us on how to deliver Jesus Christ's loving message. I'm very sad, we all have lost a part of ourselves in her. But just as we lost her here on earth, we have gained her as a friend in heaven." Sister Rita recalls Dolores sharing with a group how much she loved the Psalms and how deeply they spoke to her in her life. She also shared that this summer she and Sister Ann Therese were privileged to have a deep conversation with Dolores about the things of God. Dolores shared with them about her relationship with God and how that colored her whole life. Rita said, "It was one of the most beautiful conversations of my life." Alane Eckert, Transportation Coordinator at Victory Noll shared that the one word that describes Dolores most is determination. When she made up her mind to do something it was as good as done. Alane

described Sister Dolores as kind and generous. She was proud of being an OLVM sister. As sisters have passed on, Alane would ask herself, "What lesson has this sister taught me?" Sister Dolores taught her that it is not what you do, it is who you are that counts. It has everything to do with compassion, generosity, kindness and determination. Alane thanks Dolores for this lesson and hopes to pass it on to her children. Many more memories were shared by the sisters and others both in chapel and in the dining room where we served refreshments and had informal sharing. After this, two men from Ligonier following a Mexican custom, remained overnight at Victory Noll, in Velorio, a Vigil watch for Dolores.

On Wednesday, August 11, 2010, we celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial. Sister Dolores' sister Mary Landeros and her niece Patricia Gomez were present, as were many parishioners from St. Patrick's, Ligonier. After the sprinkling with Holy Water, two gentlemen from Ligonier placed the Pall on the casket, and Mary Landeros placed the crucifix. Patricia Gomez proclaimed the first reading. The gifts were brought up by Mary and Patricia. The Gospel chosen by Dolores was John 6:51-58. Here Jesus tells us that He is the living Bread that came down from heaven. Jesus promises "Whoever eats this Bread will live forever." Dolores is now reaping the fruit of this promise. She had great faith in and love for the Eucharist and was fed daily at the table of the Lord. In his Homily, Father Fahey shared that Sister Dolores walked in the presence of God with great faith. She has come to the end of her pilgrimage on Earth, and eternal life with God has begun. He said, "Sister's life was something beautiful for God. She was a woman of faith, always anxious to spread the faith and inspire people to live the faith."

We had stormy weather on the morning of the funeral with a deluge of rain. Therefore, we had the Prayers of Commendation in the Welcoming Area after Mass. Here we had the final prayers, blessing of the casket, and the singing of the hymn to Our Lady of Victory, "We Have a Holy Mother." Following these services, Father Wilson O. Corzo, Pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Ligonier, led a short prayer service in Spanish. A delicious dinner to celebrate Dolores's life followed. Many of the parishioners from Ligonier joined us for dinner.

In the Imperial Valley, California, a Memorial Mass of Resurrection was celebrated for Sister Dolores at the Holy Spirit Mission where she served. Father Ed, the pastor, gave an inspiring homily and said that Dolores worked very hard to unite the people of Seeley by her presence, prayer and many acts of love. Many people came for this celebration. The Church was full, and people shared their memories of Dolores. A lovely dinner followed. A Novenario, which is nine days of prayer, was offered for Dolores each evening at the Mission.

We rejoice with you Dolores, as you begin your new life with Jesus and Mary whom you have loved and served so faithfully.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sister Betty Anderson, O.L.V.M." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

Sister Elizabeth Anderson, OLVM
General Secretary

