



Victory Noll  
Huntington, IN  
August 10, 1990

Dear Sisters and Associates,

Our dear Sister Marion Drexler went home to God in the shadow of the beautiful feast of the Transfiguration of Jesus. Her period of waiting on the "Come" of the Lord was ended on Tuesday, August 7th, when at 3:15 p.m. she entered into her new life with Christ Jesus!

During the past five years, Sister Marion became increasingly more frail. She experienced severe memory loss and for about the last year was unable to speak in complete sentences.

Sister suffered a severe stroke around 4:00 p.m. on August 3rd and died peacefully on August 7, 1990 with Sisters Camilla and Mary Ellen by her side. The Sisters gathered to say the Rosary, sing some of her favorite songs and pray the prayers for the deceased.

Sister Marion spent 44 years of her religious life in the Missions of New Mexico, California, Indiana, Utah, Nevada, Ohio, New Jersey, Vermont and Massachusetts. From 1970 until 1972, she spent short periods of time in Las Vegas, Los Banos, Green River, Yuma and Mathis helping out with census work and home visiting. After this became too difficult for her, she returned to the Noll from Mathis in 1972 to become a Nurse Aide so that she could be of service in ministry to the sick Sisters on third floor. She was very helpful as an Aide and brought comfort to many in her service of love for the next 10 years.

Sister shared her missionary experiences in her stores she contributed to the TMC. One such story related by her told of her experience with a sister companion as they attempted to drive to an out-mission in Canyon Blanco about 15 miles from their mission. The road was so rough that they were thrown from side to side as they drove along. Along the way they were stopped by a man who told them it would be impossible for them to continue in the car. He invited them to ride in his wagon which was already loaded with children. They climbed in and squeezed between the children on a narrow board. As the horses plodded along through mud and water, the water began to get deeper and deeper until it almost reached the tops of the wheels. As they bumped along, the wagon would tip dangerously to one side and they thought they would be thrown into the water. But, they finally arrived safely and were rewarded by a large group of children and adults waiting for them at the Church.

- 2 -

Sister Marion was the daughter of the late Joseph and Mary nee McGuire Drexler and was born November 21, 1903 in Hartford, Connecticut. She was the third child in a family of four children. Sister entered the Congregation from St. John's parish in New Haven, Conn. on October 30, 1925 and made first profession of vows March 25, 1928. She celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 1985. Sister is survived by her sister Arline Stout of Nichols, Conn. Her two brothers Horace and James preceded her in death.

The wake service, with the theme of the cross, was held at 7:00 p.m. in Memorial Chapel. Sister Gertrude Sullivan led the service. Srs. Madelon LoRang placed the crucifix on the casket, Mary Joan Ginsterblum and Isabelle Kestler did the readings and Rita Musante gave a short homily which centered around thoughts on the cross, the sign of our salvation. She recalled for us the beautiful-consoling thought of Isaiah 53:2-5 "By His wounds we are Healed." In part she said "Our sufferings, our sorrows, our offenses, lifted up with him on the cross, are now lifted up with Him in Resurrection and Ascension - that is, into the Glory of God. By His wounds we are healed!-the mystery of the cross. By Marion's wounds who knows how many wounds have been healed in our world? The cross is our light and our salvation:-of what sorrow or suffering or past offense need we be afraid? The cross - forever, the glorious sign of the Christian. The cross: forever, a reminder that God's ways are not our ways. Let us take a few moments of silence for prayer ... for gratitude for reflection on the mystery of the cross in our lives ..."

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Father Leopold Gleissner, OFM Cap., on Friday morning at 8:30 a.m. Srs. Frances Kowalewski, Lorraine Noon and Cecilia Marie Renke carried the cross and candles, Camilla Cray and Patty Altenhoff, lpn, placed the pall on the casket. Sr. Carmen sang the Responsorial Psalm and the Alleluia verse; Barbara McCord and Christopher Rudell did the readings, Victoria Grabler offered the intercessory prayers and Catherine Marie and Agnes Ganse brought up the gifts.

Father Leopold offered the homily and since it was the feast of St. Lawrence, deacon and martyr, he linked Lawrence with Sister Marion though, as he said this might seem odd. The Emperor wanted to acquire the treasures of the Church, but Lawrence pointed out that the Church sold them in order to help the poor, the sick - the "real treasures." Jesus came to do the will of his Father. This was Sister Marion's aim - to do the will of the Father. We should make it ours also.

The following remarks were made by Sister Mary Louise just before the final commendation prayers. (her talk in part)

"During the last couple of days as I thought of Sister Marion, my mind seemed to go back to the '70's after Sister Marion had returned to Victory Noll. During the summer days that I was here I would often meet Marion walking on the back road. Almost always she would tease me with a good riddle. I can't remember one of these but I know I always enjoyed her delight in telling them and her own laughter at their humor."

"Sister Marion seemed to enjoy these jokes as much or more than anyone. Perhaps her simple and obvious delight in these gives us some insight regarding her spirit and outlook on life since humor is said to help us dissolve our pretense and illusions. It can help us recognize and accept our limitations and finiteness and open us to the sacred. Besides, the laughter that is triggered by a good joke or the final answer to a clever riddle is easy to share and spreads a kind of joy and release that is good for everyone, the listeners as well as the teller. Sister Marion seemed to live the wisdom of G.K. Chesterton's statement that: Life is serious all the time, but living cannot be."

Even though Sister's life seemed simple, happy and uncomplicated, I suspect that there were many difficult times, times that tested the zeal of her missionary spirit and times that tested her self-confidence and even her faithfulness.

Like so many of you, from time to time Sr. Marion contributed short stores to The Missionary Catechist or told about her mission experiences. She spoke of time spent in out-lying missions around Albuquerque where the Sisters gave instructions to the children and made arrangements with the lay teachers for continuing classes after their departure.

Every two or three weeks, she said, they would return to Albuquerque to their convent for a fresh supply of clean clothes and other necessities and then they would be off again to another place. Their car was usually packed with army cots and bedding, an oil stove for cooking, a bucket for water, a wash basin, groceries, one suitcase for personal articles and another with dishes and cooking utensils and lastly, briefcases with class work materials. They tried to cover most of the mountain regions before Christmas and before the severe weather set in. On one of the trips out of Albuquerque, in Alamida, they lived in a two-roomed box car. Perhaps it was in those days that Marion began to see both the seriousness and the humor in life and value both.

So as we reflect on and celebrate the gift that Sister Marion's life has been to us, let's ask for a measure of the loving, joyful spirit and sense of humor and simplicity that marked Sister Marion's life and will open us to the sacred and help us to enjoy and delight in one another."

Again, we thank the Creator for the gift of his presence shown so beautifully in Sister Marion through her gentle and joyful spirit.

Prayerfully in Jesus and Mary,

*Sister Germaine Stoller, O.L.D.M.*

Sister Germaine