



Victory Noll
Huntington, Indiana
February 6, 1987

Dear Sisters and Associates,

"God, my Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet swift as those of hinds and enables me to go upon the heights!" Hab. 3:19

Two days after the beautiful feast of Purification, the feast of LIGHT, Sister Mary Gertrude Siegfried entered into eternal life and light very peacefully at 12.40 a.m. Wednesday morning, February 4, 1987 in Holy Family Health Care Center. This morning we gathered in faith and love to celebrate a memorial liturgy for her. Her niece, Cecilia de la Cruz and her husband Lee from Chicago and her nephew's wife, Gloria de Biase were present for the liturgy.

Sister Mary Gertrude returned to Victory Noll from Neosho, Missouri in 1965 because of ill health. At that time, she had apparently suffered a stroke.

On November 2, 1986, Sister fell and broke her hip. She had surgical repair from which she did not make a good recovery. She did manage to walk a few steps with the aid of a walker, but that was all. About a week before her death, she had problems with swallowing and difficulty in breathing. She had, according to the doctor, suffered another slight stroke. She was given oxygen to relieve her labored breathing. Then she developed congestive heart failure which was the cause of her death. The last two days of her life were days of severe pain for Sister Mary Gertrude. She was prepared and spoke of Jesus coming for her. Sister Madeline De Groot and Sharon Young, aide, were with her when she died.

As Sister Mary Gertrude had donated her body to medical research, a memorial service was held in her room at 6:00 a.m. with thirty or more Sisters present. The prayers of that service are both meaningful and consoling to all of us. Mr. Hart came for the body at 6:30 to make the trip to Indianapolis.

Thirty-two years of her religious life were spent in catechetical ministry in the missions of California, New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, Florida and Missouri. Sister was a member of a team of three sisters who brought the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine into the Gallup Diocese from their Grants mission. From that mission, they went to Flagstaff, Kingman, Winslow, Coopertown, St. John's, Prescott, Seligman and Ashfork. an interesting story of their work in Kingman is related in the October issue (1943) of TMC. In 1944, the Grant's mission was moved to Flagstaff and then in 1953, the Flagstaff mission was moved to Holbrook.

Sister Mary Gertrude wrote an account in the TMC of a little Navajo Indian boy who came to her religion class. He spoke Navajo, Spanish and English. One day she met him and asked, "What is the first thing you do when you open your little eyes in the morning?" Without hesitation he said: "I say, 'All fo' Jesus froo Ma'wy!"

Here at the Noll in her retirement, Sister spent a lot of time enjoying the beauty of the grounds. She was a nature lover and bird watcher and always carried her binoculars or had them close by to catch a glimpse of her feathered friends. She was very knowledgeable about birds and made a book of all those birds which she had observed at Victory Noll with pictures and interesting facts about them.

Sister also did a lot of visiting among the sick Sisters to help cheer them. She was the one who put out the welcome signs for those who came in in the summer and the one who did the decorating on third floor.

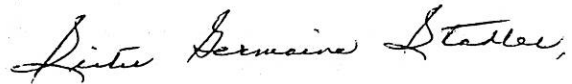
Sister Mary Gertrude was born November 15, 1901 in Milwaukee, the fifth in a family of six children. She studied music for nine years at the Milwaukee Conservatory of Music and taught piano theory for eight years before entering the Community. She was an excellent musician in the missions and used her musical talent to a great advantage with the children. She entered the Community from Holy Cross parish in Milwaukee February 7, 1930 and made first profession of vows March 25, 1933 at Victory Noll. She celebrated her golden jubilee in 1980.

The wake service was held on Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. Sister Virginia Schmitt led the prayers and Sisters Clarice and Marie Jane did the readings.

Sister Mary Louise Rowney and Sister Lucille Martinez did the readings at this morning's liturgy. Sister Florence presented the prayers of the faithful and Cecilia and Lee and Gloria brought up the gifts. Father Giles gave the homily.

Again, we see the cost of discipleship - the living out of the Paschal Mystery in the life of Sister Mary Gertrude. We praise God for the reflection of his love in Sister Mary Gertrude who lived God's love and radiated it to others. She had a delightful sense of humor and had the ability to see the funny side of any situation. What a great grace! We will miss you around, Mary Gertrude and we ask you to intercede for us in our efforts to be faithful and maintain a funny bone in life.

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sister Germaine Stadler".

Sister Germaine Stadler, olvm