



May 27, 1993

Victory Noll
Huntington, Indiana

Dear Sisters and Associates,

As the feast of Our Lady of Victory dawned on May 24, Sister Mary Loretta Srill entered the final phase of her journey to the Father. At 6:10 a.m. Sister passed peacefully from this world. At her bedside were Sister Camilla Cray and several of the other nurses.

In 1991 and in February of 1993 Sister Mary Loretta suffered strokes which seriously affected her speech. On April 28, 1993 Sister suffered a massive stroke which caused her to lapse into a coma, from which she did not recover.

Born August 2, 1909 in Chicago, Sister Mary Loretta was the youngest member of the Srill family, which included five daughters and two sons. Three daughters entered Victory Noll: Sister Helen in 1924, Sister Marguerite in 1926, and Sister Mary Loretta in 1929. One brother, Harold, was a priest of the Servite Order. Sister Mary Loretta was the last surviving member of the family.

As a novice, Sister was missioned to our convent in Indiana Harbor, Indiana. August 15, 1932 was the date of her first profession of vows. The next 23 years were divided between our missions in California and New Mexico. Sister spent 12 years in various Texas missions, and a year each in Flat River, Missouri, and East Chicago, Indiana. In various missions Sister also served as Local Superior. 1982 proved to be her last year in the missions. For the next 8 years Sister performed a labor of love as Sacristan for Memorial Chapel at Victory Noll.

The decade of the nineties reads like a litany---in 1990 Sister suffered a severe heart attack. In 1991 it was a stroke. In 1992 Sister fell and broke her left arm. In 1993 it was another stroke which seriously affected her speech. We know that it was very frustrating for her when she could not make herself understood. And finally, in April of 1993 Sister suffered the stroke that left her comatose. Through it all she was remarkably patient.

Characteristic of Sister Mary Loretta was her ability to see the humor in a situation. Hers was a dry humor that often helped the Sisters relax after meeting the demands of a busy day. Sister Carmen Montoya, who had been missioned with Sister, remarked that, "You could not be sad around Sister Mary Loretta".

Other Sisters have commented on the outstanding way in which Sister embodied the Victory Noll charism. Noteworthy was her simplicity and love for the poor. Sister Florence Luechtefeld mentioned Sister Mary Loretta's ability to collaborate with others, a quality which made her a beautiful person with whom to work.

Two of Sister Mary Loretta's nieces were present for the Wake and Funeral. They were Sister Colette Sroll, IBVM and companion, and Mrs. Paul Reynolds and her husband.

On May 26 Father Thomas Fahey offered the Liturgy of Christian Burial. In his homily Father commented on the missionary aspect of Sister's life. Long ago Sister heard the exhortation of Christ to go into the whole world and bring the gospel to everyone. She has spent her life carrying out that mission. Father further commented that there are no children here to mourn Sister's passing. Undoubtedly Sister Mary Loretta had also pondered our Lord's words, "Everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life". (Mt 19:29)

We thank God for Sister Mary Loretta's presence among us. We rejoice that on the beautiful feast of Our Lady of Victory Sister attained that fullness of life for which she was created.

During this season of Pentecost, the final verse of the Veni Sancte Spiritus expresses our prayer for her:

"Give her virtue's sure reward, Give her Your salvation,
Lord; Give her joys that never end!"

In the peace of Christ,

Sister Elizabeth Ann Evans
Sister Elizabeth Ann Evans, OLVM