

Victory Noll
Huntington, Indiana
March 16, 1992



Dear Sisters and Associates,

"This is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks upon the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life!" Memorial Mass John 6:40

Our dear Sister Margaret Campbell's period of waiting was over at 9:35 a.m. Friday morning, March 6, when she stepped through the mystery of death to behold Jesus inviting her to her new life in Him. Now she beholds the radiant splendor of his presence!

Sister Margaret returned to Victory Noll from Lubbock, Texas where she had been Associate Director of Religious Education in the Southern office of the Amarillo Diocese. Her health was failing due to osteoarthritis. Sister became the congregational Archivist for the next eleven years retiring in October of 1986.

In 1988, Sister Margaret moved to Holy Family building when walking became more difficult. In 1989, she was diagnosed as having Paget's disease, a disease of the bones for which there is no specific treatment. The condition just becomes progressively worse.

In October of 1991, Sister Margaret had a left breast mastectomy from which she made a good recovery. As the degenerative disease became more widespread, Sister suffered increasing pain and was confined more constantly to bed.

On March 4, Sister Margaret had difficulty breathing and was found to have pneumonia. Father Fahey anointed her and the sisters gathered to say the prayers for the dying. Her condition deteriorated rapidly and she became comatose during the night of March 5. The sisters divided their time between Sister Sophia and Sister Margaret praying the prayers for the dying. Sister Margaret died quietly at the end of the Community Mass, just one hour and five minutes after Sister Sophia. She went home to God at 9:35 a.m. Friday morning, March 6, 1992.

As a junior, Sister Margaret was supervisor of studies of the Aspirants at Victory Mount in Las Vegas in 1927. She suffered from typhoid fever while she was there and had to return to Victory Noll in May of 1928.

Sister Margaret spent 38 years of her religious life in religious education and social action in the missions of New Mexico, Texas, California, Indiana, Ohio, Colorado, Utah and Nevada. She spent one year in the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine National Office in Washington, D.C. preparing religion courses. Sister opened the mission of Los Banos.

Sister obtained her B.A. Degree in English and her M.A. Degree in Education from De Paul University in Chicago and taught summer sessions in Catholic University's Pacific Coast Branch at San Rafael College in California. She also taught catechetics, Bible and church history at Victory Noll for eight years.

I found her articles in TMC very interesting. One in particular was her description of the sisters "Ten Days in the Rockies." It seemed that they had driven up to Our Lady of the Rockies Camp to make their retreat. On August 5, after the celebration

was over and the guests had gone, they spent the rest of the day "rejoicing, singing, mountain climbing and letter writing." She said had they known then what they found the next day, there would have been no mountain climbing. The caretaker had shot a bear, which unknown to them, had been making nightly visits to the camp.

Another interesting thing they learned after the retreat. While they were keeping silence during the retreat, a Catholic family from Denver had stopped at the camp and chatted with the non-Catholic caretaker. The latter told the visitors: "This is the queerest bunch of women I ever saw. They're all mad. I can't figure out what's the matter with them. The sisters who came other years laughed and talked and had a good time. But these don't even speak to each other. I saw one take a chair and go out under a tree and just sit there with her back to the others. I see them meet and walk in front of each other and never say a word." TMC July/August 1955 pp 10-13.

As Sister Margaret gave her body to medical research, we held a special prayer service in her room immediately after she died. Shortly afterward, Hart's Funeral Home took the body in preparation for the trip to the Indiana Medical School in Indianapolis.

Sister Margaret, the daughter of Walter and Victoria Pelarski Campbell was born December 29, 1902 in Amherst, Wisconsin, the second oldest of nine children. She entered the Congregation from St. Stevens parish in Stevens Point, Wi. June 30, 1926 and made first profession of vows August 15, 1928 at Victory Noll. She celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 1986.

While Sister Margaret's sisters, Wanda, Dorothy and Mona could not be present for the Memorial Mass as they were unable to travel, we held them in our hearts in love and prayer.

Our Memorial Liturgy for Sister Margaret was celebrated by Father Fahey on Monday, March 16, 1992. Srs. Frances K. and Isabelle did the readings; the Schola sang the verses of Psalm 23 and the congregation sang the response; Sr. Victoria offered the intercessions and Srs. Gertrude and Lucy Marie brought up the gifts. In his homily, Father referred to the Transfiguration of Sunday with its many messages - foretelling the crucifixion, preparing the Apostles, being a sign of victory in the Resurrection. He spoke of the joy we will have in beholding the presence of God. We are made for something more than this life. Eccles. speaks of the timelessness in our hearts. Our destiny is to be with God. Sister Margaret now has the satisfaction of her deepest desire. She is with Jesus and we should celebrate!

Sister Margaret's words in asking permission to make her perpetual vows have always impressed me - " I assure you that I entered our dear Society with one motive, namely, to love God more, to belong entirely to Him and to do His will in all things." I think this ideal motivated Sister Margaret throughout her life. By her example and teaching, she has enriched our lives and the lives of countless others.

I will miss you dear Margaret. You have been a part of my life for a long time. I pray that "the Angels lead you into paradise, May the Martyrs come to welcome you and take you to the holy city, the new and eternal Jerusalem; May the choirs of angels welcome you . . . and may you have eternal rest!"

Always with love,

Sister Germaine Stadler, olvm