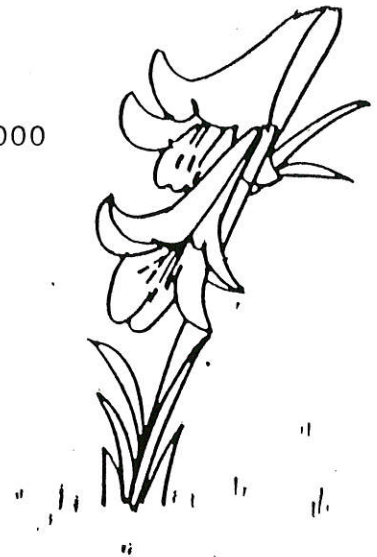


July 5, 2000

I have fixed my eyes on your hills  
Jerusalem, my destiny.  
Though I cannot see the end for me  
I cannot turn away.  
We have set our hearts for the way.  
This journey is our destiny.



Dear Sisters:

These words are from one of Sister Alice O'Brien's favorite hymns, "Jerusalem, my Destiny." Sister Alice died May 22, 2000 in the U.S.C. University Hospital, Los Angeles, California. She had surgery May 8 and though she was doing well afterward she suffered a massive stroke May 15.

Sister Alice was born May 1, 1921 to James A. and Julia (McCabe) O'Brien in Providence, Rhode Island, the oldest of a family of eight children. Her parents are deceased. Two sisters and a brother preceded Sister in death: Anne M. Freeman, J. Eileen O'Neill and Paul E. O'Brien. Survivors are: James A; Washington D.C.; Robert; Colonial Beach, Virginia; Jerome, Marshfield, Massachusetts; and Mary Goins, Arlington, Virginia, brothers and sister, and sisters-in-law, Jeanne O'Brien and Shiela O'Brien and brother-in-law, Crad Goins. She has left many nieces and nephews.

Sister entered Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters October 7, 1944 and had been missioned in Texas; Colorado; Massachusetts; Pennsylvania; Indiana and California. Her primary ministry had been in parish and diocesan religious education. From that she had created many other works.

Many kindly words have been spoken of Sister Alice by our Sisters and also those with whom she had ministered and those to whom she had ministered.

This is a quote from an article written by friends/coworkers of Sister Alice as they recalled her years of ministry:

"It was a difficult time for the Cuban people in U.S.A. who had recently come from under Communist rule with the rise of Fidel Castro. For many, the class that Sister Alice gave on Salvation History meant so much. It helped them to accept God's Will that they not live under Communist rule, not give up the right to practice

their religion -- that exodus to freedom was the correct choice to make."

Following is an excerpt from a eulogy written about Sister by one of those Cuban refugees.

"You taught me what our Salvation History was all about, how we all take part in God's plan of salvation for each other, how we all are protected and guided by Our Lord; how Christ's love and spirit is what unites us all over the world; and how Jerusalem is our destiny!"

A concelebrated Mass of the Resurrection was offered by the priests of the Imperial Valley, May 25, 2000, in Sacred Heart Church, Brawley, California, for Sister Alice.

At Victory Noll the wake was Sunday evening. Some of the family and Sisters shared memories of our sister.

The Liturgy of the Christian Burial was presided by Father Thomas Fahey, chaplain at Victory Noll, Monday morning, June 12. A prelude of Irish music, On Galway Bay, When Irish Eyes are Smiling, All Praise to St. Patrick, Dios Te Salve seemed so appropriate. Present were members of the family, James A. and his wife; Robert; two nephews, Gerald O'Neill and his wife, Beverly; Steve O'Brien, wife and family; Associates of Victory Noll Sisters; friends; and about 140 Victory Noll Sisters. Sister Mary Jo Maes had this beautiful message in the homily:

"Her ministry also brought much joy to the people and the Sisters as she played her clarinet. Alice not only prepared people for ministry but also prepared places where others could minister and bring Christ to them."

Many joined the procession after Mass to the Victory Noll cemetery, and the burial of cremains followed with Father's blessing, our responses and singing Tu Eres La Victoria.

Sister Alice, you are missed. Surely your message of love from God will continue to resound almost from coast to coast.

Sincerely yours,

*Sister Marjorie*  
General Secretary