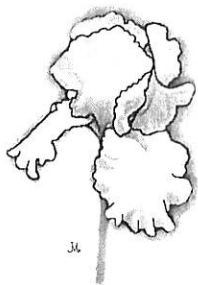


February 21, 2008

Dear Sisters, Associates, Family and Friends,



SISTER WILLIAM ANN MALONEY was suffering from congestive heart failure and becoming progressively weaker. She moved to 3rd floor of Holy Family Health Care Center to be closer to nursing care. The doctor said that her heart was enlarged and with the fluid in her chest, her heart had no place to go. When her breathing became more difficult, the sisters began to sit by her side until the end. William Ann died at 4:50 AM on Sunday, February 10th. She was ninety-four years old.

Sr. William Ann (Theresa Bridget) was born on August 22, 1913 in Hampton, Virginia to William Maloney and Annie Louisa Haug Maloney. She was the fourth of seven children, Bernardine, Bernadette, William, herself, John, Gertrude and Ann. The oldest brother, Bernardine, died in 1907, before Sr. William Ann was born.

William Ann contracted scarlet fever as a child. The doctor told her parents that she would probably not live into adulthood. Time proved him wrong. William Ann did survive but she never grew very tall. Her parents tried various remedies but William Ann never reached five feet in height. Her father told her that it was all right to be small.

She attended elementary school and high school, where her favorite subjects were history, civics and English literature. Then the Great Depression began and William Ann helped support her family by working as a sales clerk. She was friendly and her job gave her many opportunities to interact with people. She was also active in her parish. In his letter of recommendation, her pastor said that she was one of the best workers in the sodality and that he would miss her. However, he was very happy that God was calling her to His service.

In 1951 William Ann responded to that call and sent her application to Victory Noll. She was thirty-eight years old, the oldest in her class. It was back to school for her as she studied at our Victory Noll Junior College in preparation for missionary work. When she entered the novitiate, she received her religious name, the names of her parents William and Ann.

Besides studying, there was also time for play. There were volleyball games but the director of novices thought William Ann was too small to be part of the team. This did not faze William Ann. She volunteered to be the cheerleader! With her southern drawl and agile leaps, she livened up many an evening. Her most famous cheer was:

*I'm Victory Noll born
And Victory Noll bred!
And when I die
I'll be Victory Noll dead!*

William Ann made her first vows on August 5, 1954 and was missioned to Detroit where she stayed for two years. In the summers, she was assigned to teach Vacation Bible School in the small towns around Detroit. Her next mission was South Bound Brook, NJ where she again stayed for two years. She joined her family in the celebration of her parents' Golden Jubilee in 1956. Then it was on to Smethport, PA where she worked until 1961. Those years held a special sorrow. Her father died in 1958 and her mother in 1960. She was able to go home on both occasions to be with her family.

- OVER -

In 1961 she went to West Harwich, MA for a year and then to Richmond, KY for another year. From then on, it looked like she was slowly working her way westward. In 1963 she was missioned to Delhi, IA and in 1965 to Rocky Ford, CO. She became councilor (assistant to the local superior) in that mission. After four years, William Ann was assigned to Hawthorne, NV where she stayed for six years.

Like many of our sisters, William Ann took college courses during the summers at Victory Noll. She attended classes in 1957 & 1958 and again from 1964 to 1967, when she received her Certificate in Religious Education. She continued taking courses at Regis College in Denver (1969) and at Incarnate Word College in San Antonio (1970-1972) where she received a Certificate from the Pastoral Institute. Even in her later years, she continued taking courses in various places.

Sr. William Ann became a professional in the field of Religious Education. In her many missions, it was probably true that she had students who were taller than she. That created a unique challenge in keeping order and discipline. It was her gift of teaching as well as her moral stature that made the difference. The students paid attention and learned. However, in one of her missions, it was especially difficult and nothing seemed to work. William Ann got the inspiration to ask one of the men of the parish to put on a "badge" and walk the halls. It was amazing to see the effect that had!

In 1976, William Ann was asked to go to Powell, WY, her last mission. She was sixty-three years old. She joined Sr. Mary Lawrence Rochel who had arrived in Powell three years earlier. The two sisters worked there for sixteen years. William Ann taught religion on all levels, including adults, and did home visiting as well as pastoral ministry. Her spirituality came through to the people she visited. It is said that they were inspired to live their Catholic faith more deeply. Her sense of humor uplifted everyone she met. In 1991, when Sr. Mary Lawrence broke her hip, they knew it was time to return to Victory Noll. The people of Powell bid them a fond farewell and the mission was closed (March, 1992).

At Victory Noll, William Ann continued her ministry of service, volunteering for household duties, working in the laundry and helping with recycling. She often said, "God has been so good to me!" Her heart continued to grow in love for God and for her sisters. When her heart grew so large that her body could no longer contain it, she went home to God.

We laid Sr. William Ann to rest on February 15, next to her friend Sr. Mary Lawrence. Her niece, Carol Ann Kiessling with her husband Bob of Lake Zurich, IL were able to come for the funeral. Fr. Fahey, who knew Sr. William Ann from Wyoming, gave a beautiful homily of appreciation. The song we sang at Mass had words that God spoke to William Ann all through her life: *"I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have loved you and you are mine!"* God spoke them again at the moment of her death:

"I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have loved you and you are mine!"

Sincerely in Christ,

Sr. Melanie

Sr. Melanie Persche, OLVM
General Secretary