

ENTER INTO THE JOY  
AND

December 23, 1994.

Dear Sisters:

"You have been endowed from your birth with princely gifts  
In eternal splendor before the dawn of light on earth  
I have begotten you."

This antiphon in the Evening Praise today brings to mind the life of our Sister Esther who suddenly stepped out of our lives in the early hours of Wednesday.

Sister Esther Wieber was born to William and Clara (Knopp) Wieber March 9, 1922, in Westphalia, Michigan.

In a brief history of her life that Sister Esther had written some years ago she relates that she finished high school and obtained a job at a World War II plant. Here she worked for the 'duration.' Then she was employed by Michigan State Correction Department under Civil Service until she entered Victory Noll.

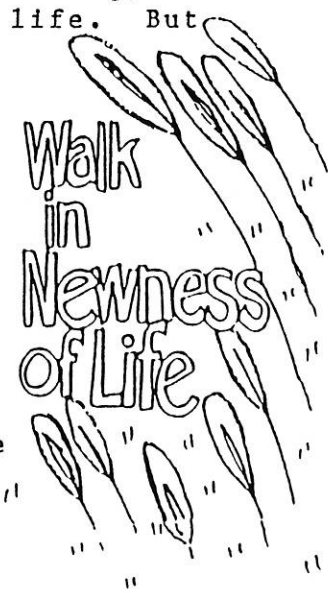
The following quote from Sister's writing describes so very beautifully this personal call of Christ to "Come."

"My contact with the inmates at the Michigan State Correction Department made me realize the great need for teaching christian values. In reading the background of many of the inmates, I observed there was a complete lack of religious training or participation in the church although many said they were Catholic.

"Meanwhile I was blest to have met a priest in Lansing, Msgr. Flanagan, who encouraged me to enter religious life. But which community should I enter?

"I was fascinated by the missionary endeavors of Victory Noll Sisters and their reaching out to the poor people who had no opportunities to attend the Catholic Schools. This was the ministry I felt called to do. When I told my confessor, Msgr. Flanagan, of my interest in the Victory Noll Sisters he was 'all for it.' He, too, had seen the notice in Our Sunday Visitor and was impressed with the Victory Noll Sisters' ministry."

Sister writes of her happy days in the Novitiate and the thrill to open her first appointment for Brady, Texas.



In respect to her missions Sister Esther writes:

"The first priority was to inspire the children and adults with a deep love for Jesus and His Mother."

In 1986 Sister Esther returned to Victory Noll for health reasons. She was generous with her time and courageous in much suffering.

Sister Esther's health had gradually failed during these eight years. During Wednesday night the nurses noticed a sudden change in Sister's condition. Sisters Monica Haines, John Francis Radler and nurses were with her when she died about 1:15 the morning of December 21, 1994.

Our Sisters from Fort Wayne, 25 members of the Wieber family and a Sister companion, Sister Bernadette O.P., arrived for the funeral. Among the family members were all eight of Sister's living brothers and sisters:

Sister Bernita Wieber, O.P., of Racine, Wisconsin; Father Elmer Wieber, Tucson, Arizona; Father Donald Wieber, Waterliet, Michigan; Romilda Pung, Lansing, Michigan; Magdalen Armbrustmacher, Arnold Wieber, Eugene Wieber and Gerald Wieber all of Fowler, Michigan.

The body was brought to Victory Noll Thursday afternoon. We prayed the Office for the Dead and the Rosary at four o'clock.

The Wake Service in the evening recalled our baptism with a procession while singing Come To The Water. Sisters spoke of the gentleness and kindness they had known of Sister Esther while working and living with her and remembered her many talents. Father Donald and Magdalen shared with us the happy family life of the Wiebers.

Father Donald Wieber presided at the Liturgy of the Eucharist and also at the prayers at the cemetery.

We appreciated the gift of the family participating in the liturgies and also the gift of their sister, Esther, sharing her life with us. We, as well as Sister Esther, have been enriched by her answer to Christ's Call. May you rest in peace and joy, Sister, remembering us to the Lord as we will remember you.

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,

*Sr. Marjorie Curran*  
Sister Marjorie Curran  
General Secretary