

June 21, 1999

Dear Sisters and Associates:

Sisters were "a presence" with Sister Marianne Michels from the early hours Saturday morning, June 5, 1999. They were praying with her and for her as the breathing became more and more limited. She seemed to be conscious of the presence as they came to and from the room. It was 1:25 in the afternoon that she breathed her last very peacefully. A bout with cancer was ended. An eternal life was beginning.

Sister Marianne Michels was born to Arthur and Lavina (Mayer) Michels in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, November 6, 1937. Her father is deceased. She attended St. Patrick's Grade School in Sheboygan and graduated in 1956 from Mercy High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Sister Marianne entered Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters congregation September 6, 1956 and professed first vows August 5, 1959. Her ministries had been in Missouri, Arizona, California, Florida, Ohio, Texas, Michigan and Wisconsin besides vocation work from Victory Noll. After ten years teaching in religious education programs Sister had been in an array of roles aiding the poor and oppressed. Director in Diocesan C.C.D. Office, Social Ministry Organizer, Social Justice Minister and Counselor are names of a few positions she had held.

The State of Michigan recognized Sister Marianne while she was Director of Michigan Empowerment Project for the improvement of housing and school opportunities for the Hispanic farmworkers. The responsibilities called Sister forth into situations where not all care to tread. Andrea Rodriguez gave us insights into some of the life and ministry while she worked with Sister.

In 1989 Sister Marianne returned to her home in Sheboygan. Her father was ill and she divided her time as caregiver and some various works locally. After his death she stayed with her mother and continued her ministries. She was with Sheboygan Human Rights Assn., Head Start Program and many other projects those ten years.

Sister Marianne had not been well for a few weeks at her home when Sister Janet visited her in May. Sister was brought to Victory Noll by air ambulance June 1. She was accompanied by her brother and two nurses. The Huntington Memorial Hospital EMS met the plane at Huntington Airport and transported to Victory Noll. She was weak but made the trip quite well. However she

suffered very patiently. She had short visits with Sisters during the few days she was here. Sister Judy Turnock shared with us her stay with Sister one evening. Quietly they sang some, prayed a little and recalled past days. Sisters Lucy Regalado, Beatrice Haines, Mary Ellen Descourouez, Amelia Villanueva, Dorothy Anne Lengerich and Martha Sijota were with her when she died as well as nurses attending her. She had donated her body to science. Before the body was taken to the mortuary we were invited to her room for a few moments.

Sister Marianne is survived by her mother, Lavina Michels of Sheboygan; brothers, Carl of Sheboygan and Edward of Pewaukee, Wisconsin; nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

The Wake was Sunday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock. Sisters were here for the retreat. Mrs. Michels, Carl Michels and Edward Michels and family were here.

Father Thomas Fahey presided at the Mass of the Resurrection Monday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock. Father inspired us with his Christlike words and the schola led us in a beautiful farewell liturgy. This was an experience for the retreatants as they began their week of prayer and meditating.

The medical school did not accept the body and burial was Tuesday, June 8, in Victory Noll cemetery.

Sister Marianne, our music and voices rang out that Sunday afternoon "I Want To Walk As A Child Of Light." For you it has meant to direct programs, a presentation to Texas State Legislature, a Nevada Desert Experience, to name a few steps of your walk in this life.

"I want to walk as a child of light,  
I want to follow Jesus  
God set the stars to give  
light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus  
In Him there is no darkness."

Thank you, Marianne.

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,

*Sr. Marjorie Curran*

Sister Marjorie Curran  
General Secretary

