

March 31, 2010

Dear Sisters, Associates, Family and Friends,

Sister Evelyn Marie Davis died peacefully at 5:10 p.m. on Monday March 22, 2010, at Holy Family Health Care Center at Victory Noll. Sister Evelyn Marie had been declining in health for some time. She had expressed her wish to go home to God. At 3:00 p.m. Monday Fr. Fahey, anointed Sister Evelyn Marie. Although she was not able to speak, she opened her eyes during the Anointing. Around suppertime, Sister Monica had gone into her room and found her very peaceful. A few minutes later, Sr. Lupita went in to see how Evelyn Marie was and discovered that she had died. Evelyn Marie's prayers were answered. She was in the presence of the God she loved and served.

Sister Evelyn Marie was born in Mount Clemens, Mich., on April 25, 1916, to Russell and Nina Allar Davis. She had three siblings, one older sister Henrietta Lesperance, a younger brother Russell Davis Jr., and a younger sister Marjorie Lally. Sister Evelyn Marie was preceded in death by her parents, sisters, and brother.

Sister Evelyn Marie entered the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters on October 28, 1941. She made her first Profession of Vows on August 5, 1944, and her Perpetual Vows on August 5, 1950, at Victory Noll. Evelyn Marie served in the missions in California, Utah, Kentucky, Arizona, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Indiana. Although Evelyn Marie spent time in the missions serving as a Local Councilor and doing Social Work and Religious Education, her great love was for House of Prayer Ministry. Sister served as a core member of the House of Prayer at Victory Noll from 1976 to 1981. At the House of Prayer she ministered with Sister Rita Musante, who was Director of the House. Sister Evelyn Marie provided spiritual direction and prayer support to many. She spent much time in Intercessory Prayer, and Prayer of Abandonment. During her free time, she loved walking along the mulberry trees that lined the back road. She also was a great cook, and loved to bake bread and make homemade soups. She served as cook during her years at the House of Prayer. Sister Evelyn Marie loved hot biscuits and tea and enjoyed sharing them with Sister Edward Noone over a pleasant conversation. It was also known that she loved Limburger cheese, but her friends made sure that when they bought the cheese, they invited her out on a picnic so that the house would not be filled with the aroma of the pungent cheese.

When the House of Prayer at Victory Noll closed in 1981, Evelyn Marie resided at Victory Noll. She spent a year of study on topics related to the House of Prayer Ministry such as spiritual direction, prayer, spirituality of Teresa of Avila, and the spiritual exercises. Sister Evelyn Marie became a core member of the House of Prayer in Erie, Pa., and later a core member of "The Listening Place," a House of Prayer in Michigan. She was a healing presence to all who came to her for spiritual direction, prayer, and solitude. She also facilitated directed retreats, individual guided retreats, and study groups.

Sister Evelyn Marie retired to Victory Noll in 1987 and lived at the Villa. She provided baking and household duties at Holy Family Health Care Center for 14 years. She did this with generosity, love, and cheerfulness. In 2002, Evelyn retired at Holy Family Health Care Center. She continued to show concern



and love for those with whom she lived, and blessed the community through her intercessory prayer ministry.

At the Vigil Friday evening, sisters and friends shared their memories of Evelyn Marie. Jan Scher, a dear friend for many years, shared how much Sister Evelyn Marie's friendship meant to her. She said she considered Evelyn Marie her Spiritual Director. She shared that Evelyn Marie gave her great help in her spiritual journey. Sister Rita shared that one of Evelyn's favorite books that she read many times was "Abandonment to Divine Providence" by Caussade. Rita said her devotion of Abandonment to God carried her in her later years. Evelyn Marie's friend Janet McGuire shared that Evelyn Marie was her Spiritual Director. At the Villa she attended her Bible study and said Evelyn Marie was always enthusiastic when sharing about the truths of God and our Faith. Janet continued to visit Evelyn Marie often at Holy Family. She said, "Sister Evelyn Marie was ready to go home." On her last visit, Evelyn Marie was sleeping, when Janet said, "I love you." Sister Evelyn Marie responded "I love you." Sister Callista recalled the beautiful bulletin boards and cards Evelyn would make on special occasions. She said "Evelyn was generous in sharing with all."

On Saturday, March 27, we celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial. Sister Evelyn Marie's friends Jan Scher, and Janet McGuire from Huntington and our Associates Andrea Rodriguez and Evangelina Palmer from Lansing, Mich. were present for her funeral Mass. After the sprinkling with Holy Water, Andrea and Evangelina placed the Pall and the Crucifix on the casket. Sister Evelyn chose Lamentations 3:22-26 for the first reading. Her Holy Scripture speaks of God's favors, mercies and faithfulness. They are renewed every morning for those who seek Him, and wait for God in silence. This was Evelyn Marie's prayer and posture before God. In his homily, Father Fahey spoke of Sister Evelyn Marie as "one who prayed often and fervently." As an intercessor, Father said, "She will keep on praying for all of us." He said that the Little Flower, St. Theresa, said before she died that she would continue her mission in heaven of interceding for the world until the number of the elect is complete. Father said, "We can be sure that Sister Evelyn and all our sisters are interceding for us. Our lives are intertwined with one another. Love is stronger than death and reaches beyond time to bind us together." Sister Evelyn is being prepared for heaven where she will continue to be united with us as our sister in Christ.

After Mass we processed to the cemetery, where we laid Sister Evelyn Marie to rest with the final prayers, blessing of the casket, and the singing of the hymn to Our Lady of Victory, "We have a Holy Mother." A delicious dinner to celebrate Evelyn Marie's life followed.

We rejoice with you in your victory, Evelyn Marie. Thank you for your faithfulness in following God's call. The one you have loved has called you home; we will always remember you and ask that you pray for us.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sister Betty Anderson, O.L.V.M." The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Sister Elizabeth Anderson, OLVM

*General Secretary*