



"ON THE DAY when the radiant star of morning
shall rise in your heart

when the glory of the Lord will
shine forth in splendor

when the Lord will wipe away all
the tears from your eyes

THAT DAY face to face, you shall see God
our Father."
(BIBLICAL HYMNS - Lucien Diess)

Dear Sisters and Associates:

This day came for Sister Kathleen Leven last week, Tuesday, 11:50 a.m., January 25, 1994. Surely she realized each phrase of this biblical hymn as we sang this Gathering Song for the Mass on Friday morning, January 28. It was a choice she had made some time ago for her funeral liturgy.

Sister Kathleen was born February 4, 1903, in Danville, Illinois, to John and Frances Shafer Leven. She was the youngest of two brothers and three sisters who have all preceded her in death. She attended the parochial school in her parish and took a stenographic course in a business college. After working for a few years in Danville for lawyers, her mind and heart turned to religious life.

Sister entered Victory Noll on April 24, 1928, made the Act of Consecration on May 24, 1928 and made profession of vows on August 15, 1930. Her preparatory training was at Victory Preparatory Institute in Las Vegas, New Mexico. After profession she was missioned to Santa Paula, California. Other assignments in the fields of religious education and health care have been in the states of New Mexico, Indiana, Colorado, Texas, Michigan and Arizona. She spent four years in a secretarial position at Victory Noll during this time also.

It was in 1983, Sister Kathleen returned to Victory Noll to live in Holy Family Health Care Center. Sometimes, this can be considered retirement, but as time went on she, as so many other Sisters have, became more and more occupied with spiritual and corporal works of mercy. With those bedfast or those for whom seeing and hearing was difficult, she prayed office. Should there be a meeting or party on the calendar, Sister Kathleen would be volunteering to write words to a song of a familiar melody for the occasion. She was participating with her support group in various activities even to the point of giving themselves a name - "80's on the Go". Should an anniversary appear without a celebration planned, she was known to have managed a program for the day. This was not a new hobby Sister was cultivating in her senior years. It was natural for her and had always been a part of her life.

In November of 1991, Sister Kathleen had a left mastectomy due to cancer. She recovered well except for frequent episodes of bronchitis and asthma. In July 1992, she fell in her room and fractured her hip. Even though she made valiant effort to walk, severe osteoporosis hampered a complete recovery. She

also had a heart condition. During the past few months, her failing health became more noticeable. The last few weeks she suffered much pain. On Saturday, January 22, she enjoyed a visit from her two nieces, Srs. Catherine Dolores, csc, and John Margaret, csc, of South Bend, Indiana.

On Monday, January 24, her condition began to deteriorate. Sisters sat with her during the day and night. Sister Barbara Marie was at her bedside during that last hour. Sisters and nurses were in the room as Sister Kathleen died very quietly and peacefully. Immediately, prayers for dying and rosary were prayed in the room and also rosaries were prayed in the chapels.

Father John Dietzen of Bloomington, Illinois, and Srs. John Margaret and Catherine Dolores were present to meet the body at 4:00 p.m. and process to the chapel on Thursday. Father and the Sisters had arrived in Huntington the day before to avoid the inclement weather predicted for Thursday. Sister Judy Turnock had been at Victory Noll since Tuesday so could also be with us.

During the evening and early morning, relatives were arriving in Huntington for the liturgies. Besides Father and the Sisters, twelve relatives were present for the Liturgy of Christian Burial on Friday. During the wake and evening, some remembrances of Sister Kathleen were shared by Sisters and the family. She had made good things happen and abandoned her will to that of the Father.

Father Dietzen and Father Fahey concelebrated the Liturgy of Christian Burial. Srs. Catherine Dolores and John Margaret placed the pall on the casket and read the Scripture selections. At the homily, Father reminded us that we are all special. Today we celebrate and recall his aunt's special blessings. What did her life mean to the Community - she loved and was proud of OLVN. there was a blessing both ways.

What did her life mean to the family - the nieces and nephews had testified the evening before to the blessing of their aunt, such as letters from Texas, California, etc., telling them of the big world out there, encouragements, prayers for those in the Service during the War, etc.,

What did her life mean to the Church - her growth in love and enrichment over the years as she returned again and again to the missions to share just that.

The closing hymn, THE STRIFE IS O'ER, had an additional verse written by Sister Kathleen Leven:
Oh Sisters, as we meet today
We place our trust in Jesus our Way
Oh, let us sing and fervently pray
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Yes, Sister Kathleen, let's do sing and pray 'til the radiant star rises in our hearts.

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,

Sr. Marjorie Curran