

October 27, 1996

Dear Sisters:

We recited Psalm 16 at Sister Susanna Michels' wake service Friday evening:

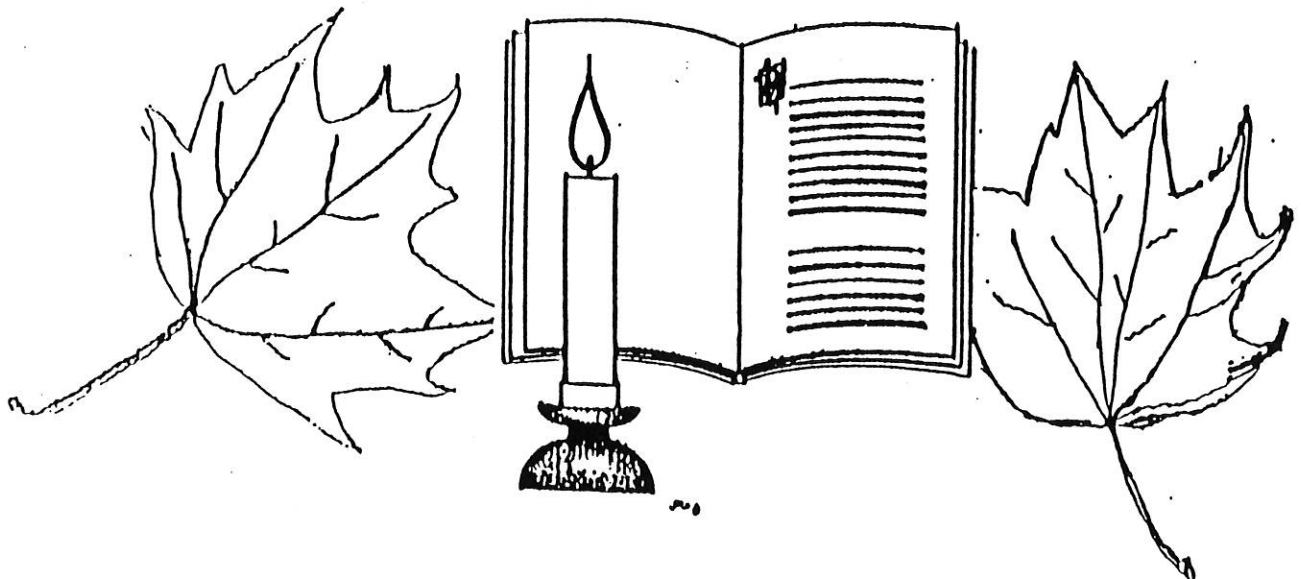
"You will show me the path of life,
the fulness of joy in your presence
at your right hand happiness forever."

Sister Susanna Michels died Wednesday, October 23, 1996 at Victory Noll. It was almost 6:00 PM when she slipped away very quietly and peacefully.

Sister Susanna was born December 24, 1905 to John and Rosalia Biessner Michels in Sandstone Township, Pine County, Minnesota. She was the 15th in a family of 17 children. She was preceded in death by her parents and 14 of her brothers and sisters. Some of the children died in childhood. Three sisters were members of Sisters of St. Joseph. There are two sisters who survive: Theresa Michels, Melbourne and Mrs. Philomene Weber, Malabar, both in Florida.

Sister Susanna entered Victory Noll Training Institute from Florida September 4, 1925. She pronounced her first vows December 8, 1927 at Victory Mount, Las Vegas, New Mexico. She had in her belongings THE REIGN OF JESUS THROUGH MARY (1926). This little book has a handwritten message, "With heartfelt congratulations and blessings for your holy profession and with fervent prayers for your faithful observance of your vows, From Father, Feast of Immaculate Conception, December 1927."

The first assignment for Sister was Lubbock, Texas. She was missioned also to New Mexico, Ohio, Utah, Florida and Arizona and taught eight years at Victory Noll.



Sister had courage and enriched her gifts. She learned the sign language to be able to minister to the hearing impaired; she learned Spanish to be able to bring a deeper meaning to the message of salvation for Spanish-speaking adults and children. The students and co-workers recognized Sister as a very understanding messenger.

Sister Susanna returned to Victory Noll in 1975 to minister here except for one year she was in Arizona and Florida as a companion. She had a variety of household duties and sewed for the missions, however prayer ministry must have been first. A prayer of hers:

"I am walking in a path by which I shall never return. Each action I perform today will never be performed again. Therefore, I should perform each action well. This day may be my last. I want to perform each act as though it were my last."

A story book compiled by Sister of mission experiences is very interesting. Here is one story:

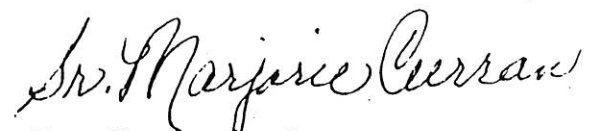
"In my missionary travels in New Mexico, a trip took us to Mora. One day there was a knock on our door. A couple had come from Las Cruces for a funeral and were returning home but found they would not have enough money for gas. 'How much do you need?' I asked. A dollar and twenty-eight cents was the reply. We did not know if Father approved of giving money to those passing through and he was not home but we could not refuse.

"A few days later we saw the Mass Schedule listed Oje Feliz as the place for Mass so we went. We waited and waited but no sign of Father. So we prayed with the people and gave an impromptu instruction. Still no Father! One of the men took up a collection and gave the money to me with the remark, 'This is to pay for your gas.' I thanked him, put it in my pocket. On the way home curiosity got the best of me. I wondered how much he had collected. Believe it or not, it was exactly one dollar and twenty-eight cents."

Sister Susanna's funeral Mass was October 26, 1996 presided by Father Thomas Fahey. His homily was in story form in remembrance of Sister's special gift.

Sister Susanna, remember us to Jesus and Mary often and continue to give us a helping hand.

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,


Sr. Marjorie Curran
General Secretary