

~~A Woman of Gentleness~~ Sister Mary Jane Sister Mary Jane

Victory Noll
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January 24, 2003

Dear Sisters, Associates, Family Members and Friends,

*Dawn was stretching wide,
Cold and chill whipped through the air,
God's New Life sprung forth.*

Dawn stretched across the sky at 6:13 AM on Saturday, January 11, 2003, showing off the snow and cold around Lutheran Hospital in Ft. Wayne, Indiana when Sister Mary Jane Cholewinski entered into God's New Life through the gate of death.

Previous to her death, Sister had spent several days in the hospital ICU with Victory Noll Sisters and her sister, Laverne, keeping vigil and praying. The suddenness of her heart condition taking serious hold of her body was a surprise to all at Victory Noll even though she had been tending to this illness for many years.

Sister Mary Jane's ministry was always pastoral to include being a Parish Director of Religious Education and Home Visitor plus all the many tasks of such a position. Sister's ministry reached the states of California, Colorado, Michigan, New Mexico, Ohio, Texas and Utah.

Sister was born in Culver, Indiana on February 9, 1926 to Stanley and Lucy Wilke Cholewinski. She entered Victory Noll on October 27, 1945 and made First Profession on August 5, 1948. After 53 years in the missions, she retired to Victory Noll in 2001.

When some folks speak about Sister Mary Jane, they usually mention her gentle manner and quiet sense of humor. She had the art of creating humor out of the "humdrum" things of life causing persons around her to laugh and smile. Others speak about her love of animals (among them being the pets in the Camilla Center at Victory Noll), her ability to cook, and her excellent driving—especially in the mountains of California. She faithfully contributed her singing voice to the schola during liturgical celebrations. Sister had the reputation for being a good listener although it is jokingly reported that on one occasion during a telephone conversation, slumber reigned over her listening skill.

Sister Mary Jane's sister, Laverne Anderson, from Fostoria, Ohio was present for the Vigil Service on January 12th and Mass of Christian Burial on January 13th along with Sister Mary Jane's friend, Shirley Eiseman of Toledo, Ohio. Victory Noll Sisters from surrounding Missions also attended. Her sister, Marie Mapel of Palm Coast, Florida and brother, Carl Cholewinski of Anaheim, California were unable to attend. Sister is preceded in death by three brothers, Jerry Cholewinski, Stanley Cholewinski, and James Cholewinski.

The New Life that Sister entered on January 11th when dawn was breaking with cold and chill prevailing is God's gift to each of us. Sister Mary Jane now enjoys that gift and is waiting to share it someday with all her loved ones.

In God's peace, joy, love,

Sister Dolores Tringl

Sister Dolores Tringl
General Secretary
Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters