

May 21, 2012

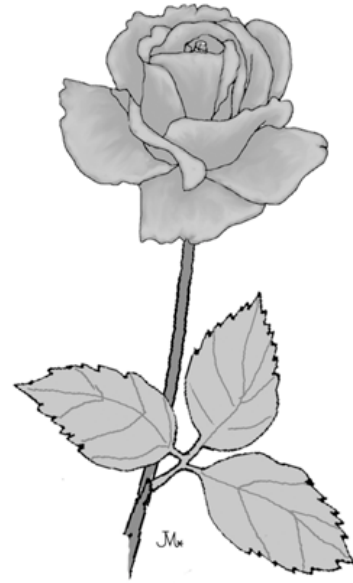
Dear Sisters, Associates, Family and Friends,

Sister Marjorie Curran passed away rather suddenly at noon on Friday, April 27, 2012, at Holy Family Health Care Center. Sr. Monica Haines was with Sister Marjorie when she died. Sister Marjorie had declined and was very weak but alert and happy to receive visits from the Sisters until the morning of her death. She was being kept comfortable on Hospice until God called her home.

Sister Marjorie was born in Iowa City, Iowa on January 23, 1919 to John and Annie Gallagher Curran. Sister Marjorie was preceded in death by her parents and one brother, John Curran, Jr. She is survived by one sister, Eileen Schmitz of Des Moines, Iowa.

Marjorie entered the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters on September 6, 1950 and made first Profession of Vows on August 5, 1953 at Victory Noll and her Perpetual Vows on August 5, 1959 at Victory Noll.

She served God and God's people in the missions of Utah, Colorado, Nevada, Texas, Arizona and Indiana. Marjorie served in the fields of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry and received her college degree from Incarnate Word College, San Antonio, Texas. Her kind gentle manner made her loved by children and parents as she taught the truths of the faith with conviction, patience and joy.



It was while Marjorie was living at Trinity Street convent in San Antonio, that she entered the Reader's Recipe contest, the 11th annual event sponsored by the San Antonio Light. Marjorie sent in a recipe for a "Ham Buffet Ring", a luncheon or supper main dish salad, and was the winner of a Westinghouse dryer. Everyone in the local community was excited and celebrated with her.

Sister spent two years at our clinic in Tucson, ministering as receptionist, buyer and also reaching out to the poor; helping to meet their social service and justice needs. When Sister Marjorie moved to East Chicago, Indiana, she continued her pastoral ministry work and reached out especially to the homebound as Eucharistic Minister. Following her years in East Chicago, Marjorie moved to Lubbock, Texas and worked for Catholic Family Services as an Outreach Worker for the Elderly. She visited, prayed with them, brought Eucharist to the homebound and listened to their concerns and needs. Her gentle loving presence was again a great solace to the elderly and brought God's presence closer to them.

In 1993 Sister Marjorie returned to Victory Noll as General Secretary for the Congregation. She continued in this Community ministry at Victory Noll for eight years. Sister Marjorie retired in 2001 and volunteered as the Assistant to the Archivist. She continued in this Community ministry for seven years.

At the Vigil Service on Tuesday evening, May 1, 2012, we began with the very meaningful hymn that Marjorie chose, "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light," truly indicative of her walk with Jesus and us.

The Reading, Isaiah 25:6-9, also chosen by Marjorie, states in verses 8-9; "On this mountain (eternal life) God will destroy death for ever, God will wipe away the tears from every face, and throughout the world remove the indignities from His people." Through her mission and ministry as a Victory Noll Sister, Marjorie spent her life trying to make this a reality for those she encountered on the journey.

In the eulogy, Sister Lucille said, "for those of us who knew Sister Marjorie, her outstanding virtues as a loving, caring and generous person will always be remembered. She was always willing to be of assistance to anyone in need." Sister Lucille pointed out how Sister Marjorie shared her gifts generously with the Community as a member of the Coordinating Team at Holy Family in the 80's and as General Secretary for eight years in the 90's. Sister Lucille also shared about how she herself was a recipient of Marjorie's empathy. While doing CPE work at Methodist Hospital in Lubbock, Lucille was able to go to the convent between classes. Marjorie would listen to her stories about the patients Lucille ministered to, and encouraged her to carry on when Lucille was ready to quit. Her kind and quiet presence that radiated strength and courage was an incentive for Lucille to carry on.

After the Vigil, Sister Marjorie's nephew Larry Schmitz and his wife Sandy, and her niece Patty Schmitz arrived while we were having refreshments and the sharing of memories. Sister Millie shared how she wanted to get to know Sister Marjorie after returning to Victory Noll. She had never been missioned with her. They shared together about their mutual enjoyment in writing, and other interests and a friendship developed from their sharing. After the "sing-along" the night before Marjorie died, Sister Millie went to her room. Millie was taken aback by her diminished and jaundiced color. Millie blessed Marjorie and prayed over her, asking God to come for her quickly. Marjorie smiled and closed her eyes as Millie left the room. She continued to pray for her during the night. Sister Millie said, "when I heard the next morning that she had died, I was most grateful to know that her suffering was over, and that Heaven was now hers."

Sister Mary Jo Maes shared that Marjorie was her classmate and was always a kind, loving and gentle presence among them. When Sister Mary Jo was missioned to Clifton, Arizona she asked Sister Marjorie to come and live with her and minister among the copper miners. Sister Marjorie visited many families and helped bring people together during a time of strikes. "She was a wonderful companion," Sister Mary Jo stated.

Sister Alodia Carney shared that she and Sister Henrietta Wilke lived in Odessa, Texas and had Victory Noll Sisters for neighbors 100 miles away in Lubbock, Texas. Marjorie lived in Lubbock with other Victory Noll sisters. Sister Alodia states it was always interesting to visit with Marjorie. Marjorie's ministries were at Catholic Family Services, which was led by Steve and Palmira Hay, our Victory Noll Associates. One activity that Sister Marjorie led was the walking club. People joined her in walking the interior of the parish hall until they gained much mileage after many circular trips. Alodia also enjoyed Marjorie's letters she wrote as General Secretary. The memorial letters for our deceased sisters gave a historical perspective to that period.

Sister Marjorie's nephew Larry shared that he was four years old when Sr. Marjorie came to Victory Noll. He said he is so grateful to hear so many things about her and her life as a Missionary Sister. He felt he

never knew her until hearing now from the Sisters of their life experiences with Sister Marjorie as a Missionary Sister.

On Wednesday, May 2, 2012, we celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial. Sister Mary Jo Maes and Sister Rose Zita Rosonke placed the Pall on the casket, and Sister Christopher Rudell placed the crucifix.

Patty Schmitz, Sister Marjorie's niece proclaimed the Reading from 1 John 3:14-16 and her nephew Larry and his wife Sandy were the Gift Bearers of the bread and wine.

In the first reading St. John tells us we pass from death to life because we love our sisters and brothers. In the Gospel, Matthew says the Son reveals the Father to the humble and will make their burdens light. Sr. Marjorie lived these readings in her missionary life of love, service and trusted in the Lord to make her burdens light.

In his homily, Father Fahey said that Sister Marjorie was a very quiet and gentle soul all her life and that is how she died. She left very quietly and peacefully, no fears, and sailed off into eternity. During her life she brought blessings and joy to hundreds and hundreds of people. "I am sure," Father Fahey said, "that many of them were welcoming her as she arrived in eternity." Father mentioned that Marjorie had cousins in Ireland who, like many Irish, used the word "mended" or "mending" to describe getting better from an illness. Marjorie enjoyed hearing from them but told Father she wondered why they used the "mend" instead of "recovered" or "getting well." Father said, "Jesus the Lamb once slain remains with us under visible signs and symbols. Dear Jesus, may Sister Marjorie now be sanctified, perfected, and *mended*, and swept up into eternal life."

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

Sister Marjorie you are now in the presence of the God you loved and served, of Mary, our Lady of Victory and all our Sisters who have gone before us. We ask your prayers for our community as we journey into the future, continuing to do the mission of Jesus that you so loved.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sister Betty Anderson, O.L.V.M." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sister Betty Anderson, OLVM
General Secretary