

Victory Noll
March 23, 1971

Dear Sisters

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Christ Jesus our Lord.
(1 Tim. 1, 2)

God has called another one of our Sisters and the summons this time was even more unexpected than Sister Eva's exactly six weeks ago. It was Sister Anna's pastor, Father William Lindgren (Our Lady of the Lake, Mount Arlington, N.J.) who called us Thursday afternoon to tell us of Sister's death.

The evening before - Wednesday - Sister Anna went to Mass with her sister Catherine. Father asked them to come to the sacristy afterward; he had a few jobs for Catherine to do in the church. She said she would take care of them the next day.

On Thursday Sister Anna drove to work as usual. She has been employed in the accounting department of St. Clare's hospital, Denville, about ten miles from Mount Arlington where she and Catherine lived. During the morning she did not feel well and her supervisor suggested she see a doctor. Her own physician happened to be in the building at the time. He took her blood pressure and found it so high that he had her put to bed at once. She died shortly after one o'clock that afternoon.

By dying so suddenly Sister was spared not only much physical suffering but much anguish of mind. Had she been ill over any period of time she would have been deeply concerned about Catherine, her sister, for whom she had already sacrificed so much.

In 1959, after Catherine had become ill, Sister Anna asked for an indult of exclaustation in order to care for their eighty-year-old father. Mr. Binz died a year later. Catherine's condition improved so much that she could be released from the hospital provided that someone would be responsible for her. Anna took this responsibility even though it meant extending the time of living apart from her community. It was a consolation for her to be considered still a Victory Noll Sister and to remain faithful to her vows. She earnestly hoped that someday she would be able to return to full community life.

Last year when we asked the Sisters to send in their choice of burial place, Sister Anna wrote that it was her dearest wish to be buried at Victory Noll; however, if this were not possible, she would be content to be buried in the family plot in Woodhaven, N.Y. We were happy to honor her request. If in God's design, she could not return to Victory Noll during her life, we could bring her here after her death.

Anna Binz was born August 2, 1908 in Brooklyn. She was a member of St. Michael's Capuchin parish (like her friend, Sister Clarice May) when she entered Victory Noll in January 1937. Sister Anna was professed August 5, 1939. When we took "Sister names," she was known as Sister Mary Liguori, having been born on the feast of St. Alphonsus. Recently, like many other Sisters, she asked to return to her baptismal name, Anna.

Sister Anna was a very zealous missionary and gave herself wholeheartedly wherever she was stationed. Her mission experience included Brawley, El Paso, Ely (Nevada), Durant (Okla.), Gary and Elkhart in Indiana. Later, when we were located in New Jersey, Sister was assigned to Middlesex and later in Flemington.

Sister's last visit with us was in the fall of 1966 when she and Catherine, Sister Clarice's sister Frances, and a Franciscan friend of theirs drove to Victory Noll. Anna kept in close touch with our Sisters in New Jersey until those convents were closed. In January of this year Sister Florentine had an overnight visit with Sister Anna and her sister. Both of them wrote to say how much this meant to them. Sister Anna planned to come to Victory Noll for at least one week of the Assembly. She told Sister Effie she was looking forward to seeing so many of us once again.

A wake and funeral service were held in New Jersey Monday, March 22. Then Sister's brother Joe and Catherine accompanied the body to Huntington. Sisters Gertrude Sullivan, Mary Louise Perl, Clarice May, Agnes Clare Sommers, and Patricia Marie O'Reilly met the plane at Baer Field Monday evening. The next morning at 8:30 Mr. Merckx brought Sister's remains to Victory Noll. Father Cyril, Capuchin, led the prayers into the chapel. He celebrated the Eucharist and conducted the burial service two hours later.

Catherine was just beautiful through everything. We feel sure that Sister Anna, who took such loving care of her in life, will continue to look after her now. Let us remember Sister, Catherine, and Joe in our prayers and let us pray, too, for the next one of us who will be called in death.

Devotedly in Jesus and Mary

Sr. Elizabeth Ann Clifford
S.E.A.