



April 10, 1995

Dear Sisters and Associates:

"I place all my trust in You, My God.  
All my hope is in Your saving Word."

These words are from the Liturgy for Christian Burial for Sister Anna Hitzler. She died Thursday morning (April 6, 1995) about 11:10 in Holy Family Health Care Center. Father Fahey had anointed Sister a few days earlier.

Sister Anna Hitzler was born January 23, 1912, to Anton and Marie Advody Hitzler in Prague, Nebraska. Her parents were Czechoslovakian. She was second eldest in a family of eight children. It was from Oak Park, Illinois, that Sister Anna entered Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, September 19, 1933. She made first profession of vows March 25, 1936. She is survived by one sister, Sister Magdalen Hitzler, O.S.F., of Lake Zurich, Illinois, and nieces and nephews.

Sister Anna spent 53 years in the missions of the Southwest: Texas, New Mexico and California. The following words from a letter of Sister to a Sister Catechist reveals the love she had for her calling:

"There is nothing better that I could do than to spend the rest of my life going here or there wherever sent and teach the poorest of the poor all about God."

Sister Evelyn Marie Davis prepared a beautiful reminder of Sister Anna's life for us with pictures and words telling the story:

"Our beloved Sister Anna was fond of outdoors; gardening as well as all of God's animal creatures. May the Creator of all be her joy forever. Amen."

In order to improve and enrich the many activities and talents in which she was engaged, Sister Anna learned to play the organ for Masses and learned the sign language to prepare children for the sacraments. She took a Red Cross course and received a certificate in Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick to be of greater comfort to the ill. She made crucifixes for the rooms of the infirmary built in 1960.

It was difficult for Sister Anna to leave her missionary life for a health care center. However, her sense of humor, her charism to comfort and her tenderness with the very ill were welcomed here.

Since coming to Holy Family in 1989 Sister Anna's health has continued to deteriorate. She has been in a wheel chair much of the time but it was only a few days before her death that she became confined to bed. Sisters sat with her two days and two nights before she died praying with and for her.

Friday afternoon the body was brought to the Memorial Chapel and the Sisters gathered for Office for the Dead and the Rosary. The Night Prayer of the Church was prayed in the evening. It had a time for sharing stories and reflections of Sister Anna's life.

Out-of-town relatives arriving for the wake and funeral were four nieces and a nephew-in-law: Mrs. Maggie Hoyt of Marion, Ohio, Ms. Carol Pilhenton, Ms. Lucy Kruschke, Mrs. Dorothy Smothers and her husband, Louis, of Dubuque, Iowa.

Father Fahey celebrated the Liturgy of Christian Burial and Service in the Cemetery. Father's homily encouraged all of us to look forward to our own growth and enrichment in our next life.

The family and classmates of Sister Anna took part in the liturgy: Carol Pilhenton and Lucy Kruschke placed the pall on the casket, Maggie Hoyt and Sister Therese Egidy were lectors, Dorothy and Louis Smothers carried the gifts to the altar, Sister Mary Eva Geiskopf read the intercessions.

There was no rain as we walked to the cemetery, bade farewell to Sister Anna and returned to the dining rooms for dinner.

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,

*Sr. Marjorie Curran*

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General Secretary