



SISTER CAROLYN ISSENMANN, OLVM

Sister Carolyn died December 4, 2013, at the age of 96 at Holy Family Health Care Center. Sister Monica Haines was with sister when she peacefully surrendered and entered eternal life.

Sister Carolyn was born in Hamilton, Ohio, on October 6, 1917, and baptized Carolyn Rose the following day, October 7, at St. Stephen's Catholic Church. She was one of four daughters and three sons of Edward Isсенmann and Christine Strasser Isсенmann, all of whom preceded her in death.

Sister Carolyn worked in an office doing posting and bookkeeping before entering the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters on October 28, 1942. She made first vows on August 5, 1945. Her first mission was Ely, Nevada, and she served the majority of missionary life in Michigan and Ohio. She also served in Utah, Colorado, California, and Indiana.

Sister Carolyn worked in religious education throughout her years of parish work, helping many people to appreciate their faith and grow in their relationship with God. She attended Regis College in Denver and received her bachelor's degree in Theology. After Vatican II she continued her education with a Master of Arts from the University of Dayton in 1974. In one of her letters to Sister Germaine Stadler, General Secretary, she mentioned how hard it was to work with clergy who were either not getting or not taking advantage of updating after the Second Vatican Council. Sister Carolyn had a keen mind, a dynamic enthusiasm for sharing the gospel, and wanted all to explore the documents and live in the Spirit of the Second Vatican Council.

In 1989, sister returned to Victory Noll from Holy Trinity Parish in Coldwater, Ohio, where she had been serving as the director of religious education. She came to Victory Noll to serve as archivist and to work in our communications department. Later, she would also supervise the print shop. In some of the remarks marking Sister Carolyn's retirement from the Archives in 1997, Sister Lucy Regalado, then president of the congregation said; "Sister Carolyn believed an archivist needed to have an innate love of history, most especially of one's religious community. Sister also thought of the archives as not only the memory of our congregation, but the key to its improvement as well." In her time as the congregational archivist, Sister Carolyn realized we needed to upgrade our

archives with improved temperature controls for the vault as well as a way to display our rich history. Sister Lucy quoted Sister Felicitas Power, RSM, in her concluding remarks; “Remember the past, to live the present, to prepare for the future.”

As we gathered to share memories of Sister Carolyn after the vigil service on Friday evening December 6, 2013, what was most common in the sharing was how gentle and sweet she was with a beautiful quiet spirit that could find joy in the simple things of life.

The day dawned cold but sunny on Saturday December 7, 2013, as we gathered to celebrate Sister Carolyn’s life. Five members of Sister Carolyn’s family were able to join us for the funeral mass. Coming from Michigan and Ohio and were Sister Carolyn’s sister Betty Korte’s children, Joe Korte, Kathleen (niece) and William Bacarella from Monroe, Michigan, and Rita (niece) and Gene Weisenbach from Cincinnati, Ohio.

Father Dale Bauman from Roanoke was the celebrant for the Mass and in his homily he talked about Sister Carolyn celebrating an early and first Christmas in heaven and what a gift that will be for her. She will finally know all those whose lives she touched, be greeted by all those she love, and see all the sisters whose letters and important papers she filed in the archives. All the connections between the past and the future, that we only have a glimpse of now, she sees fully. Father Bauman concluded his homily by placing the lectionary on her casket and saying; “I place the scriptures on the coffin because these were the tools she lived by.”

Sister Carolyn, in your quiet, thoughtful way you have blessed our lives. May you now enjoy all the fruits of your labor and understand fully the path your life has taken.

With Advent peace,



Sr. Ginger Downey, OLM

