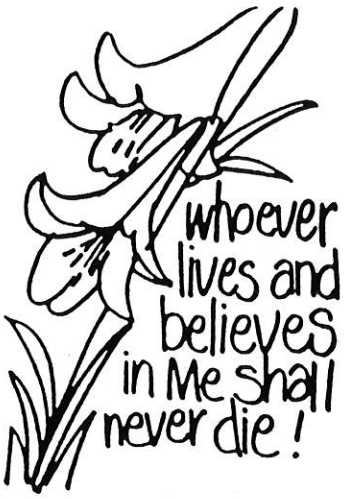

Victory Noll
Huntington, IN
July 2, 1991

Dear Sisters and Associates,

"They shall find rest from their labors, for their good works follow them!" Rev. 14:13

The crowning of Sister Mary Bernadette Wade's discipleship came early on Sunday morning at 2:00 a.m. June 30, 1991 when she heard the "call" and answered her "yes" to begin her new life with Jesus. How beautiful it must be to behold the radiant dawn of Christ's presence!

Sister Mary Bernadette returned to the Noll from Imlay city, MI where she had spent eight years in religious education ministry. During her last two years there, she helped out with housekeeping and cooking at Casa Maria. On her return to Victory Noll and the Holy Family Community, she helped in the kitchen with diet duties until her complete retirement in 1988.

Sister Mary Bernadette enjoyed remarkably good health for most of her life. She was always very active and kept many interests such as sewing, reading, card playing and attending the senior citizen's events as long as she could.

In January of this year Sister Mary Bernadette became ill. She was hospitalized and x-rays revealed a tumor in her abdomen. Surgery was done and evidence of cancer was found in the lymph nodes. However, the Doctor felt that she could still have a few good years of active life. Sister developed pneumonia following the surgery so her recuperation time was extended. In March and April she resumed some of her normal activities, going to the dining room for meals and often joining the Sisters in an evening game of cards. By mid-June the tumors appeared in the abdomen and rapidly caused her condition to deteriorate. During the last week of her life, she experienced a lot of pain and often appeared to be comatose. During this time the Sisters kept vigil at her bedside. She gradually became weaker and at 2:00 a.m. Sunday morning, June 30, 1991, she died peacefully in the Lord. One of the nurses, Sisters Rose Zita and Camilla were at her bedside and prayed the prayers for the dying. Throughout these last months, Sister Mary Bernadette kept up her cheerful, optimistic and faith-filled spirit!

Sister Mary Bernadette spent 46 years of her religious life in the missions of Indiana, California, Ohio, New Mexico, Florida, Pennsylvania, Wyoming and Michigan. She held the position of Superior in Las Vegas, Santa Fe, San Pierre and Smethport. She was also assistant cook for three years and head cook for one year at Victory Noll. It was during her past nine years at Victory Noll that her sister Rose Wade came to live here. Rose could no longer care for herself and Sister Mary Bernadette was unable to make the trip to Washington, IN. so Rose came to live with us. Rose was with us until God called her home on January 4, 1990. Rose was buried in Montgomery, in Daviess County, IN. Sister Mary Bernadette was always so grateful that Rose could be taken care of here at the Noll.

Sister Mary Bernadette was born September 13, 1897 in Montgomery, Daviess County, IN. She was the third oldest of five children. She was a telephone operator in Indianapolis and for the three years before she entered the Community, she worked for the Western Union Company.

Sister Mary Bernadette entered the Congregation July 12, 1929 from St. Mary's Parish in Indianapolis and made first profession of vows on August 15, 1932 at Victory Noll. She celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 1989.

The wake service was held Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. Sister Kathleen Leven led the prayers. Sisters Geraldine and Carolyn Louise did the readings. Sister Elaine Sullivan offered the prayers of the faithful and Sister Beatrice Lorenz shared her memories of Sister Mary Bernadette. Sister Beatrice summed up her memories by quoting St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians. 1Cor. 13:1-13. She said, "no one ever saw Sister Mary Bernadette puffed up - she was always kind and understanding." She ended her thoughts with, "faith disappears, hope disappears, only love remains. Sister Mary Bernadette was love!" During the services, we sang How Great Thou Art, a song which had been requested by Sister Mary Bernadette.

The Liturgy of Christian Burial was celebrated by Father Joseph, OFM,Capuchin. Sisters Mary Cecilia, Evelyn Marie and Florentine were cross and candle bearers; Sisters Joan and Rose Elizabeth placed the pall on the casket; Sister Christopher and James Wade, grand nephew, did the readings; Sister Gertrude offered the prayers of the faithful and the grand nieces and nephews brought up the gifts. Marcella Wiseman, a second cousin, shared her memories of Sister Mary Bernadette. She gave a bit of interesting information that I had never heard before. Shortly after Linnie Wade entered, she was given the task of helping to plant trees. A particular blue spruce was planted somewhere in the vicinity of the kitchen area. A week later, after Linnie had worked so hard getting it in the ground the way he wanted it, Mr. Adolph Jaenicke decided he didn't like that spot and had Linnie plant it elsewhere. She had to dig it up and then dig another hole and proceed to plant it again, this time near the kitchen. Today, it stands, sixty-two years old, by the guest kitchen, tall, sparse in limbs, but still quite lovely. That tree, which carries my name, has a much deeper meaning to me now that I know Sister Mary Bernadette planted it!

At the end of the Liturgy, Mike Wade, Paul's son, read a remembrance from the family of Sister. The reading was simply written and spoke of the great love the Wade family held for their dear Aunt Linnie!

After the prayers in the cemetery, we came in to a tasty meal prepared by Vince and the Cooks. We celebrated with wine and rhubarb pie!

Sisters's nephew Paul and Aggie Wade, and her cousin Marcella Wiseman arrived in time to meet the body at 4:00 p.m. Most of the others arrived in time for the wake at 7:00 p.m. and all were present for the Mass on Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. Sister's two nieces and three nephews were present; Helen Ann Wade and Dorothy O'Connor with her husband and family; Donald Wade, Paul and Aggie Wade and Jim and Ruth Wade. There were children and grand children from the above families from Mooresville, Terre Haute, Beech Grove, Washington, Bedford, Bloomington and Indianapolis. Marcella Wiseman came from Louisville, Ky.

We want you to know that we were honored by your presence at Sister's funeral. We offer our love and sympathy and thank you for your expression of love for your Aunt Linnie! May she rest in the peace of Christ Jesus!

Paul Claudel says, "Jesus did not come to explain away suffering or remove it. He came to fill it with his presence!" Sister Mary Bernadette's suffering spoke of the presence of Jesus. May we be encouraged by her quiet acceptance of death - the gateway to LOVE. May we live our own "dyings" with complete trust - always willing to "let go" when the moment comes to be called through this great mystery of death!

Prayerfully,
Sister Germaine Stadler
Sister Germaine Stadler, olvm