



Victory Noll
Huntington, Indiana
July 7, 1986

Dear Sisters and Associates,

Sister Margaret Ann Harrison's call came quickly - so quickly, that we were shocked to wake up and find her gone. Sister Mary Cecilia did not see her around on the morning of July 3rd and noticed that a book was still outside her door. She investigated and found her and then alerted Frances and Virginia. Word passed quickly and many of us came at once to her room to pray.

We learned later, that Sister Margaret Ann had visited Sister Catherine Olberding the evening before and had kissed her goodbye several times. Sister Catherine said that her face was radiant! Sister Margaret Ann apparently had a premonition of her death because she spoke freely to many of the sisters of her coming call from the Lord and how happy she would be to see him face to face!

It seems significant that Sister Margaret Ann was called to eternal life during Chapter. She attended so many chapters throughout her religious life as a delegate. She had a great love for the universal Church and was always well versed in Canon Law. Sister Alma recalled that at the second part of the first renewal Chapter in 1969, she would bring out her book on Canon Law and remind the Delegate Body of the implications of their suggestions for renewal. Sister Margaret Ann organized the Thirty Days of Intercessory Prayer to ask God's blessing upon the Tenth General Chapter of Affairs, whose theme was: "A Life of Justice for the Sake of the Kingdom!" The Intercessory Prayer was held from June 24 to July 24, 1978. During the 1984 Chapter of Selections, she spent the week in prayer at the lake house.

Sister Margaret Ann received her B.A. degree in Social Studies from Saint Francis College in Fort Wayne and her M.A. degree in Religious Studies from the University of Detroit in Detroit. Forty years of her religious life were spent in the missions of Indiana Harbor, Fort Wayne, Santa Paula, San Pedro, Redlands, Brawley, Los Angeles, Colorado Springs, Santa Fe and San Antonio. She was local superior at Fort Wayne, San Pedro, Brawley and Redlands. In 1962 she was elected to the Council as 4th Councilor and General Secretary and resided at Victory Noll. She returned to the Noll from Mora, New Mexico December 4, 1982 to do secretarial work and the following year she succeeded Sister Miriam Doyle in the Communications Office where the first issue of VISIONS came out in the fall of 1984. Visions was Victory Noll's modern newsletter and Sister Margaret Ann was in charge of production.

Sister Margaret Ann had a printed sign on her office door which read: "Do not rush. Let yourselves be guided by the Holy Spirit in depth and you will see that everything will be accomplished well!" Mary at Medjugorje -- She was truly guided by the Holy Spirit and her workplace was a reflection of her love and dedication to the Lord and to the Community. She left it in perfect order!

Sister was born April 4, 1911 in Chicago IL, the second oldest of five girls. She entered the Congregation from Queen of the Angels parish in Chicago February 3, 1931 and made first profession of vows February 11, 1934 at Victory Noll. She celebrated her Golden Jubilee on August 5, 1981 at Victory Noll.

Sister Margaret Ann is survived by four sisters, Sarah of Chicago, Sister Bernadette of Canon city, Therese Green and Lucy Henry of Barrington, IL.

Since Sister's body was given to medical science, there was no funeral. We did have a memorial wake service on Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. in Memorial Chapel. Most of her family were present for the occasion. Kathy Green made a lovely banner for the service and placed it in the sanctuary. Other memorabilia of Sister Margaret's were placed on a table in front of the altar. Several members of the family took part in the "remembering" of Sister Margaret Ann.

Those present for the wake were: Sally, John Lenardo, Sister Bernadette, Therese and John Green with members of their family - John Jr., Sue, Joseph, Thomas with his wife Kathy and their daughter Josetta, Robert, Michael, David, Barbara G. Sieman and Richard. Another daughter, Beatrice, could not be present. Lucy and Bernard Henry's car broke down so they were unable to be here for the service. However, their children were present: Bernard H. with his wife Judith and their children, Judith Marie, Bernard Anthony and Madeleine Rebecca, Marianne Kenny with her daughter Sarah, Rose and Jim Sherry Margaret Mary and Catherine Marie. Three of their sons, Jim, John and Joe could not be present. Bernard H., Judith and their family returned to Chicago on Saturday evening after the service.

The Memorial Liturgy was celebrated by Father Giles, OFM, Capuchin on Monday, July 7th at 11:00 a.m. The family took an active part in the liturgy with Catherine Marie Henry as Cross Bearer, Rose and Jim Sherry as Candle Bearers. The first and second readings were done by Marianne Kenny and Barbara Sieman. Sister Bernadette did the petitions and Lucy, Therese, Sister Bernadette and John Green Jr. brought up the gifts. Sister Mary Eva Geiskopf gave the homily where she reflected on the reading of Isaiah. She said that Margaret Ann's faith and life were firmly rooted in trust. She also mentioned that her life was one of thankfulness and happiness for the saving message of the Gospel and that the praise of God was continually on her lips. Her life was one of deep prayer and she was a shining example of God's love poured out in her heart through the Holy Spirit. Sister Mary Eva ended her beautiful homily with the Church's prayer of dismissal: "May the Angels lead you into paradise, Margaret Ann. May the martyrs come to welcome you and take you to the holy city, the new and eternal Jerusalem; may the choirs of angels welcome you . . . may you have eternal rest. And pray for us who still struggle to live with your singleness of purpose."

After the liturgy, dinner was served in the dining room. The family stayed for awhile in the early afternoon and then returned to Chicago and Barrington. Marianne Kenny traveled from Cleveland, Ohio and Sue Green from Washington, D.C.

We are still shocked and saddened by Margaret Ann's death, but rejoice with her because we know that she was looking forward to seeing Him face to face! We are grateful to the Father for the reflection of his love so evident in Margaret Ann.

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,

Sister Germaine Stadler