



SISTER MARTIN KSYCKI, OLVM

Sister Martin Ksycki, OLVM, 93, a resident of Saint Anne Communities at Victory Noll, died on December 10, 2017, at Saint Anne Communities at Victory Noll in Huntington, Indiana.

Sister Martin was born in Dubois, Illinois, on November 12, 1924, the 11th child of Joseph and Anna (Polczynski) Ksycki. She was baptized Irene Barbara four days later at St. Charles Catholic Church on November 16, 1924.

She is preceded in death by her parents; four brothers, Rev. Stanley, John, Charles, and Walter Ksycki; and all six of her sisters, Sr. Stanislaus (Clara) Ksycki, SSND, Sr. Joecile (Theresa) Ksycki, SSND, Martha Grabowski, Victoria Bochantin, Mary Elizabeth Ksycki and Valeria Ksycki. She is survived by nieces, nephews and her Victory Noll sisters with whom she lived and shared community for 70 years.

Sister Martin attended St. Charles Catholic School and Ashely Township High School. She also attended both Springfield (Illinois) Junior College and Mount St. Scholastica in Atchison, Kansas, before she entered the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters on October 27, 1948. Sister Martin made first vows on August 5, 1951. Her class was one of the largest classes, and four classmates are still living: Sister Joan Arnold, Sister Monica Haines, Sister Mary Alice Murphy and Sister Paula Wellnitz.

After making first vows on August 5, 1951, Sister Martin was missioned to San Antonio Texas. In the first 10 years, she moved from mission to mission, serving seven different missions in four states. She had the missionary spirit and did not stay long in any one parish, serving only two or three years before she moved to the next mission. In 1977, she was missioned to Pecos, Texas. She was there for six years and then returned in 1987 for nine more years, totaling 15 years serving the people of God in Pecos. In 1991, she was missioned to her home parish in Dubois, Illinois, for 16 years. For part of that time she took care of her sister, Mary. Sr. Martin returned to Victory Noll in 2007, although she never lost her missionary spirit, finding new ways to spread God's love and the Gospel.

Sister Martin wrote on her 90th birthday about four occasions God said to her, "Not Yet." The first was the birth of her sister, Valeria, who was premature. After giving birth, her mother was quite sick and prayed to Our Blessed Mother, "for the sake of my children." Anna survived and two years later, Irene (Sister Martin), was born. Anna wanted to name her Barbara after a dear friend, but the rest of the family wanted Irene. The compromise was Irene Barbara.

The second time God said "Not yet" was when Sister Martin was in college in Springfield, Illinois. Running a high temperature with double pneumonia, she received the anointing of the sick, and was not expected to live. She survived! The last two "Not

Yet” times were within the community where circumstances were such that death could have easily happened, but God was not quite ready for Sister Martin.

Sister Martin’s missionary life was full of excitement and unexpected adventure. She was able to go and see unique places and find ways to share those experiences. One way was through her photography. She took lots and lots of pictures, and saved just about every one of them. She also wrote her about her life in a little book, called “The Journey of a Missionary.”

She loved to teach and spent her entire life teaching children, and later adults. She helped them to learn the Catholic faith and to grow in their own spirituality and relationship with God. She was resourceful in her methods of teaching which was often helpful with unruly and seemingly uninterested youth.

Sister Martin also had a deep devotion to our Blessed Mother, which she learned from her mother. She wrote both poetry and music about Our Blessed Mother. Her song, “O Mary, My Mother” was sung at her vigil. She also spoke openly about her devotion to our Blessed Mother.

God finally said, “Yes, now is the time for you to come home” to Sister Martin. She slipped quietly into the embrace of God early on December 10, the Second Sunday of Advent.

Several nieces and nephews joined the community in the celebration of Sister Martin’s life, with the vigil on Wednesday evening December 13, 2017, and the Eucharistic Liturgy on December 14, 2017, with Rev Mike Lobo as the Presider. In the homily, Father Mike talked about the “Not Yets” and shared his own experience of Sister Martin.

May Sister Martin now fully enjoy the reunion with her parents, brother, sisters, and all whom she loved. May she also come to understand how her life touched others and brought them to a deeper relationship with God.

With Advent Peace,



Sr. Ginger Downey, OLVM

