

March 14, 2000

"THY WILL BE DONE"

Dear Sisters:

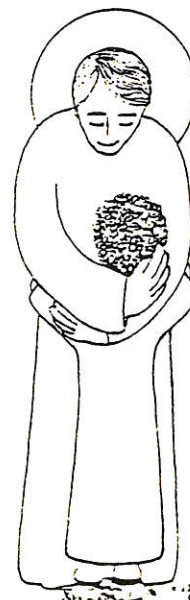
We here at Victory Noll had prepared well for the new Millenium 2000 and charted our journey with Jesus Our Lord in prayer and study. Soon after the new year dawned Our Lord called forth one of our companions to Himself. Sister Janet Thill died in Holy Family Health Care Center Monday morning, 2:22, February 28, 2000.

Sister Janet was seized by a stroke at a community meeting in San Antonio, Texas, January 15. She was hospitalized. Sister Lucy Regalado, members of the Thill family, Sister Mary Joan Ginsterblum and Sisters in the City were with her at different times. Though her right side was paralyzed she was able to travel to Rehabilitation Hospital of Fort Wayne by air-ambulance about two weeks later.

Sister was progressing well in her therapy and was able to speak some words and phrases, was aware of her limitations, was pleased to have visitors and receive greeting cards. She even spoke on the telephone at one time.

Friday morning, February 18, Sister Janet was restless when Sister Marianne O'Neill, OP, stopped early to see her on the way to work. Tests were being taken and doctors gave a diagnosis. This was a second severe stroke paralyzing her left side. According to her wishes given by the Advance Directive, her agents, and in line with the doctors' advice, it was decided to bring Sister to Victory Noll where she would receive the care to keep her comfortable. She was brought to Victory Noll Saturday afternoon and Sisters began taking turns 24 hours a day to be with her and pray with her. Sister John Francis Radler was present with her the morning she left this earthly journey and entered eternal life.

"Thy Will Be Done" was her burse and inscribed on her medal. She lived it well and especially during those days of trials, limitations and sufferings. She was an inspiration.



Sister Janet was born August 30, 1933 in Manistique, Michigan, to Martin and Isabel (Greene) Thill. Both parents are deceased. Her mother died in October 1999 and a brother, Erwin, died in August 1998.

Sister entered Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters congregation September 5, 1955 and made first vows August 5, 1958. While ministering in missions of California and Michigan she was involved in religious education, pastoral ministry, pastoral associate, adult education, Baptism catechists and marriage preparation. She also ministered in the Diocesan C.C.D. Office of Seaside-Monterey. In Chapter 1992, Sister Janet was selected as one of the four Sisters to the Leadership Team of the congregation. She was finishing her second term in that position this year.

Sister Janet's family live in Michigan: a sister, Loretta Hoy, lives in Fayette; a sister-in-law Leila Thill, lives in Cooks; a brother, Alvin and wife, Jeanne, live in Fayette and John and his wife, Linda, live in Garden.

The wake in the evening was attended by the Thill family; Sisters from Fort Wayne; Sisters from St. Peter and Paul in Huntington; associates and friends from Fort Wayne and the area; as well as the Sisters at Victory Noll. The beautiful service closed with one of Sister Janet's choices, All I Ask Of You.

Fifteen members of the Thill family, Sisters of Chicago, Illinois, Gary and Ligonier, Indiana and Coldwater, Ohio were present for the Liturgy of Christian Burial Wednesday morning. Father Thomas Fahey presided. Sister Janet had planned for most of the readings and hymns. Sister Beatrice Haines shared with us in the homily:

"Janet was faithful: a faithful friend, sister, daughter and disciple of Jesus. Sometimes she would tackle several things at one time, especially in the kitchen. I believe she could whip up a batch of dinner rolls with her hands tied behind her back. Janet, we will miss you. But we are not sad for you. Your thirst for God is satisfied. This brings us comfort and consolation."

The Recessional Prayers were in the Gathering Space because of rain.

In a reflection following a retreat, Janet wrote:

"I hope and pray that the thirst for God and the love I experienced will overflow and spring up into eternal life for all that I encounter. May I BE and DO what God is asking of me in our Victory Noll congregation and in our thirsting world."

Yes, we miss you, Janet.

Sincerely,

Sister Marjorie

Sister Marjorie Curran
General Secretary