

Victory Noll
Huntington, Indiana 46750
November 17, 1973

Dear Sisters

The Lord Jesus will give a new form to this lowly body of ours and remake it according to the pattern of his glorified body. Phil. 3, 21

This is from the reading we chose for Sister Edna Like's Liturgy this morning because it seemed to express so well what has happened to her poor little crippled body. May the Lord be praised forever!

As you know, Sister has been ill for years, but death came very quickly in the end. Last Monday evening she went to the dining room for supper as usual, but Sister Helen noticed how miserable she was and took her to her room as soon as possible. The next morning she received Holy Communion in bed. Whenever that happened in the past, we knew that Sister Edna was really sick. For years she had been coming to Mass and to dinner and supper in her wheel chair. We have always said that anyone else in her condition would have gone to bed years ago and stayed there. But not Sister Edna! As her muscles degenerated and she became progressively worse, she made the supreme effort to feed herself - literally to her dying day although for the two days before death came, she could retain only liquids.

Such helplessness must have been a greater trial for Sister Edna than it would be for many others, for hers was a strong and independent will. As long ago as the mid-thirties she admitted that it was difficult for her to walk, but she did not give up easily. Not until 1961 did she return to Victory Noll. Even then she made herself useful, folding napkins and handkerchiefs in the laundry and doing simple mending.

In September 1966, Sister became very ill and received the sacrament of the sick. No longer able to stand nor to lift herself in any way, she was confined to bed for a time. Her muscles continued to atrophy and there was little hope that she would ever regain strength. The prognosis proved correct, but Sister Edna - by sheer determination and will power - rallied enough to be able to come to Mass and meals in a wheel chair.

For the past seven years her life fell into a pattern. By 7:00 a.m. she was dressed and in her chair for Mass. She returned to bed after each meal but was dressed again and in the chapel balcony for a holy hour every day at 11:00 and at 4:15. She spent a time each afternoon propped up in bed reading from a book stand, laboriously turning pages with her fist. She could not even turn herself in bed!

It is impossible to recall Sister Edna's complete dependence on others without mentioning our wonderfully unselfish nurses. Awakening Sister Edna at 6:10 every morning and carefully and patiently getting her ready for Mass meant that the nurse on duty had to get up much earlier herself. Sister Edna's daily routine required devoted service also - sometimes well beyond her 9:15 lights out hour.

It was Sister Bridie's privilege to bring Holy Communion to Sister Edna Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Father Keith was here Wednesday afternoon for the Communal Celebration of the Sacrament of the Sick, but of course Sister Edna could not come to chapel for it. Father anointed her in her room. By this time Sister found it very difficult to speak, but she was alert. Father visited her again Thursday afternoon and gave her absolution, the last blessing, etc. When Sister Mary Elise saw how rapidly Sister was sinking (in the early evening) we called Father again but by the time he arrived, Sister was dead. The community was in chapel for holy hour.

Sister Edna Like was born in Farina, Illinois, September 12, 1895, the third eldest of nine. Sister was twenty-eight years old when she entered in Gary in April 1924. A year later she came to Huntington to join the few Sisters living in newly built Victory Noll. In the fall of 1925 she went to Chaperito, N.M., but returned to Victory Noll in the spring and was professed on the feast of the Annunciation, 1926.

Like many of our older Sisters, Sister Edna spent a number of years in New Mexico: Anton Chico, Cerrillos, Grants, Las Vegas. She was in El Paso 1935-37. Sister went to Salt Lake City in 1941 and remained there five years before going to Nevada (Elko and Ely). It was thought that she would benefit from Arizona's dry air and in 1951 she was missioned to Flagstaff. Two years later Sister Edna went to Redlands where she remained until her return to Victory Noll in 1961.

A number of Sister Edna's relatives were here for the wake and funeral: her sister, Sister Jane, O.S.F., Springfield, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. Henry (Florence) Metzger; Mrs. Jo Behl (sister); Mr. and Mrs. Matt Like; Donald Metzger and Charlene Musser, son and daughter of Florence; a cousin, Mary Vogel and friend, Mrs. George Fishback from Wabash, Indiana. Three young Sisters from the Springfield OSF community also attended Sister's funeral. They were making a retreat at the friary and visited us Thursday afternoon, only a few hours before Sister's death. Because they were from Sister Edna's sister's community Sister Bridie took them to her room. She understood who they were and showed her happiness at their visit.

Father John Holt celebrated the Liturgy today at 10:30, assisted by Capuchin novices. Sister Jane and Donald, Sister Edna's nephew, were lectors. Sister Jane and Sister Agnes Kozla (one of the eight Sisters professed in 1926 with Sister Edna) brought up the gifts.

Besides the members of her family who were able to come for the funeral, Sister Edna is survived also by Mrs. G. J. McDevitt (Dot) and Richard Like.

May the death of each of us be in the peace of Christ so that we might share in his glorious resurrection.

Devotedly in Jesus and Mary

Sister Elizabeth Ann Clifford