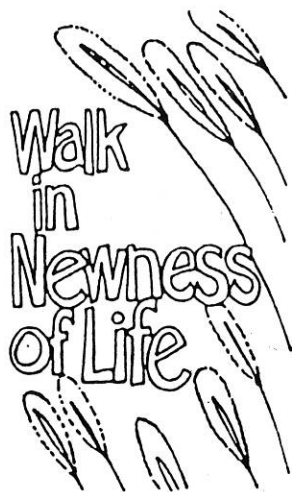


Victory Noll
Huntington, IN
August 23, 1991



Dear Sisters and Associates,

" I love because I love; I love that I may love!"
- St. Bernard -

The crowning of Sister Marian Frances Weyenberg's faithful discipleship came on the feast of St. Bernard, August 20, when at 3:10 a.m., she slipped quietly into eternity to begin her new life with Jesus. No longer bothered with physical disabilities, she could now behold with joy the Risen Christ where there is no darkness or suffering!

Sister Marian Frances returned to Victory Noll from Tohatchi, New Mexico in July of 1969. She remained fairly active, taking part in Community activities, although she was somewhat handicapped due to degenerative arthritis and failing eyesight. During this past year macular degeneration caused almost complete blindness.

Sister Marian Frances retained her sense of humor, her interest in the other Sisters, enjoyed their visits and the friendship and care of the nurses. During the past few months her strength failed gradually, although she was able to attend Mass each day.

On Saturday, August 17, there was a noticeable change in her condition. She appeared to be comatose and could not be aroused. Father Kronewitter anointed her and the Sisters stayed close by praying quietly. Monday evening the Sisters continued to stay at her bedside. At 3:10 a.m. with Sister Lucy Marie Vega and nurses Lorrie Reust and Ruby Smith at her bedside, Sister Marian Frances died quietly and peacefully in the Lord.

Sister Marian Frances spent thirty-seven years of her religious life in the missions of California, Nevada, Utah, Ohio and New Mexico. Sister spent seven years in Brigham City, Utah at the Intermountain Indian School. In May of 1953 and 1954, she toured the Indian reservation in Arizona and New Mexico. In May of 1956, she did the same thing and in 1957 she spent from May until July at the Navajo reservation checking the religious status of the pupils who came to the Intermountain School.

Sister wrote many interesting stories about her life and of the missions she had been in. I particularly enjoyed the story about the Redlands house on Crescent Avenue where she described an incident in getting ready for Christmas. It seemed that they were decorating the house for Christmas. Each sister had plenty of space to display her talents, so no one objected when the Superior reserved to herself the pleasure of decorating the chapel. A large sign warned everyone to keep out until after Midnight Mass. That year "white trees" were new and special and the sisters pretended not to see the white trees of various sizes disappear into the chapel with boxes of decorations, wreaths, sprays and garlands. Everyone was too busy to pay much attention to her activity and all relished the anticipation of a big surprise. The last thing she did before we left for Midnight Mass was to light a small kerosene stove and set it in the chapel so the room would be warm and cozy when we returned. The Liturgy was long and beautiful. In high spirits, we returned home to our own Christmas celebration. After a visit to the crib, we would have a special breakfast and then enjoy a party around the big tree. All followed the Superior to the chapel. When she opened the door, we gasped, not in amazement, but in horror!

The small kerosene stove had malfunctioned and sent out volumes of black smoke instead of heat. The beautiful white trees, the garlands, wreaths and sprays were draped in webs of black soot - a ghastly sight! Sister Marian Frances spent the rest of Christmas eve perched on a tall ladder washing the chapel ceiling. Everyone joined in the cleaning. The Superior soon recovered from her disappointment and saw humor in the situation. Everyone was young then and the chapel disaster did not dampen their Christmas spirit or their celebration, once they were rested up from their unplanned cleaning job.

Sister Marian Frances was born March 2, 1900 in Little Chute, Wisconsin. She was the oldest of twelve children. When she was in her twenties, she and her sister Eleanor moved to Appleton to work. They had an apartment and kept house together. While they were there, Marian Frances saw the ad in the Sunday Visitor and wrote to Victory Noll. She made up her mind that she was going to be a Catechist. In January of 1929, Eleanor became very ill and died. Her death was very difficult for Marian Frances to bear. As soon as she could, she closed the apartment and moved back home with her parents to be with them before she entered Victory Noll. Eleanor died in January of 1929 and Marian Frances entered the Community July 29, 1929. She made her first vows August 15, 1932 and celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 1989.

Sister's family, with the exception of John and her youngest sister, Bernice (Dolly) Miller preceded her in death. Dolly, a sister-in-law Betty Jane Weyenberg, another sister-in-law Bernice Weyenberg, two nephews, Greg Weyenberg and Mr. and Mrs. Weldon Weyenberg arrived just before the Mass. We are grateful indeed for the gift of their presence here at the Noll.

The Liturgy of Christian Burial was celebrated by Fr. Bede, OFM, Cap. Sister's sister, Dolly Miller and sister-in-law Betty Jane Weyenberg with Sister Joan placed the pallon the casket. Srs. Christopher and Carolyn I. did the readings; Sr. Carmen sang the Responsorial and Alleluia Verse; Sr. Florentine offered the intercessory prayers; Bernice Weyenberg and nephews Greg and Weldon brought up the gifts. Father Bede's homily was very brief. He spoke of her love for the Mass and the Eucharist as her source of strength for her ministry. He concluded with a petition that Sister Marian Frances pray for all of us to be faithful to our commitment. Sister Mary Louise prayed the Final Commendation prayers and honored Sister's request for no eulogy.

The family had their dinner in Holy Family dining room. They visited for awhile and then left to return to Wisconsin.

We reflect in sadness and joy that another of our sisters has heard and answered the "call" to "come and see!" Sister carried her cross gracefully and in peace. How apparent was the reflection of God's love in Sister Marian Frances! May she intercede for us as we continue on the Way -

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,

Sister Germaine Stadler, OLM
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