

# Sister Isabelle

2003

*Singing and Playing  
"Sounds of Music"*

August 20, 2003

Victory Noll  
P.O. Box 109  
Huntington, IN 46750  
260-356-0628

Dear Sisters, Associates, Family Members and Friends,

The sounds of silence and prayer filled the room of Sister Isabelle Kestler at Holy Family Health Care Center on Monday, August 11, 2003 at 4:25 PM. At that moment she peacefully took her last earthly breath and entered the new life about which faith tells us that ...the eye has not seen nor has the ear heard what God has prepared for those who love.

Sister Isabelle's mission history reveals that she ministered in the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Indiana, Kentucky, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah and Wyoming. She was needed in all these missions because of her organ and choir director talents. Organists were of great demand, and Sister's talents enabled her to fill that demand. God also gifted her with the ability to speak fluent Spanish. With this capability she could spread God's Love to migrants and persons in isolated areas through catechetics and social welfare work.

On October 30, 1940 Sister entered Victory Noll and made first vows on August 5, 1943. She spent forty-eight years in the missions and came to Victory Noll for part time ministry and retirement in 1991.

Sister Isabelle was born September 29, 1918 in Chicago, Illinois to Nicholas Kestler and Isabelle Barthen Kestler. She is survived by one brother, Bernard Kestler of Port Ludlow, Washington. She is preceded in death by two brothers, Joseph Kestler and Charles Kestler. No immediate or other family members were able to attend the Vigil Service on August 12<sup>th</sup> or the Mass of Christian Burial on August 13<sup>th</sup>.

In the Funeral Mass of Christian Burial, Father Thomas Fahey referred to the Gospel text of John 11:21-27. He spoke about the faith of Martha and Mary when they met Jesus at the tomb of Lazarus. They knew that Jesus would bring Lazarus back to life. Father then spoke of the possibility that Lazarus may not have wanted to come back to life because he was perfectly happy "at home." And perhaps, if Sister Isabelle was called back to life, she might respond "No thanks. I am at home."

We pray that Sister Isabelle is enjoying the "sounds of music" in her new home of heaven.

In God's peace, joy, love,

*Sister Dolores Tringl*

Sister Dolores Tringl  
General Secretary  
Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters