



Victory Noll
Huntington, Indiana

April 26, 1993

Dear Sisters and Associates,

As the joyful alleluias of the Easter season filled the chapel on April 18, Sister Mary Dorothy Schneider assisted at her final Sunday morning liturgy. The next morning would find her enjoying the fullness of life in the presence of Our Risen Saviour.

On April 7 Sister Mary Dorothy suffered a severe stroke. She was taken to Emergency, but the nurses were advised to care for her at home. She suffered several minor strokes, or seizures, during the days that followed. At 9:30 p.m., on April 18, the nurses observed that there was a marked deterioration in her condition. Sisters remained with her through the night. Shortly before 3:00 a.m., on April 19, Sister Mary Dorothy passed peacefully from this life. Sisters Monica Haines, Mary Rosella Lengerich, and Camilla Cray were at her bedside.

Born July 22, 1903 in Gardenville, New York (a suburb of Buffalo), Sister Mary Dorothy was the eldest of three children. A brother, Joseph, resides in Buffalo. A sister, Bertha, preceded her in death.

Dorothy worked as a Legal Secretary for a prominent law firm in Buffalo when she "heard the cry of the poor". Despite strong opposition, she responded to the call by entering Victory Noll on September 9, 1925. At that time the Congregation numbered about thirty members. The main building at Victory Noll had been dedicated just two months earlier.

Initially, Sister Mary Dorothy was chosen to do secretarial work for our founder, Father John Sigstein. Later, she was appointed Supervisor of the Associate Catechists of Mary, in which position she organized Mary's Little Helpers, later known as Mary's Loyal Helpers. Their role was to provide spiritual and material assistance to the "catechists" in the missions. Sister also initiated some changes in our magazine, THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST, which was published at Victory Noll.

During the early years of our Congregation, various Sisters were responsible for publicizing the "Society", and making

known its work. Appointed Publicity Director, Sister Mary Dorothy represented the Congregation at conventions, and prepared a slide and lecture series which she presented in schools throughout the state of Iowa, and elsewhere. At the invitation of the Director of the Propagation of the Faith, and accompanied by Sister Agnes Kozla, Sister Mary Dorothy presented the vocation film, In The Service of the Queen, several times daily for a month in the diocese of Belleville, Illinois.

As an instructor within the community, Sister taught English classes at Victory Noll, and also at our mission in Redlands, California. Having consistently encouraged the Sisters to continue their studies, Sister Mary Dorothy enrolled in many summer sessions herself. In the course of time, she earned a Bachelor's degree from Dominican College in San Rafael, California. She also earned a Master's in Religious Studies from Immaculate Heart College in Los Angeles.

As a missionary, Sister fulfilled various catechetical, social, and health care ministries in parishes located in Nevada, New Mexico, California, and Florida. Sister Mary Dorothy was remarkable for her energy and zeal, whether she was assigned to the densely populated Hispanic area of East Los Angeles, or the more rural town of Willows in northern California. She also served as Local Superior in various missions.

In 1980 Sister returned to Victory Noll. She now offered to do secretarial work for the Vocation Department, insofar as her health would permit. Severe arthritis was causing her much pain. Thereafter, during a twelve year span of time, and 742 sessions of Physical Therapy, Sister Mary Joan was able to help prevent much of the stiffness and crippling that often accompany such a condition.

At the Wake Service Sister Mary Dorothy was referred to as "a beautiful person whom we will miss". On Wednesday, April 21, Father Thomas Fahey offered the Liturgy of Christian Burial. Family and friends of Sister Mary Dorothy were unable to attend. Some of our Sisters from Ft. Wayne were able to be present. In his homily Father commented that the departed are more alive than when they were with us--for now they have the fullness of life!

We thank God for Sister's presence among us, we rejoice that she has attained that fullness of life, and we trust that she will intercede for us as we continue our earthly pilgrimage.

In the peace of Christ,

Sister Elizabeth Ann

Sister Elizabeth Ann Evans, OLVN