

February 06, 1990

Victory Noll
 Huntington, Indiana
 February 9, 1990



Dear Sisters and Associates,

"Wait for the Lord with courage; be stouthearted and wait for the Lord!"

Psalm 27:14

Sister Charlotte Scheper's long period of suffering and patient waiting came to an end on Tuesday morning at 2:30 a.m. when she quietly slipped through the mystery of death to behold Jesus with her own eyes! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sister Charlotte returned to Victory Noll from Tohatchi, New Mexico in September of 1973. For about five years she was very active and lived for a time in OLV East on third floor and on the second floor in Sacred Heart building. She moved to the Holy Family Health Care Center in September of 1978 because of the discomfort she was experiencing with her hip. Sister Mary Joan worked with her in therapy, but on November 14, 1978 she had a hip replacement. The surgery was successful and she came back to the Noll on November 29th. A week or so later, a possible stroke left her confused and unable to communicate. Again, with a lot of loving care in therapy, Sister Charlotte improved to the point where Sister Mary Joan could take her out to the woods to enjoy the trails. Sister Charlotte loved it!

In October of 1980, Sister Charlotte surprised everyone by being able to speak, read, and reminisce. She even typed a letter to her friend. Periodically, Sister would have these good days when she seemed so alert, talked, remembered names and even asked about relatives.

She suffered a great deal with severe pain in her head. We always knew she was having a hard time when she held her head in her hands.

In April of 1986 she rolled off the exercise mat and broke her hip. After it was pinned, she was unable to walk and became bedfast. From then on she deteriorated. In recent months she began to have difficulty in breathing and gradually became weaker. On February 6th, around 2:00 a.m. the night nurse noticed a change in her and immediately notified Sister Virginia. Sister Charlotte died very peacefully at 2:30 a.m. Sister Charlotte's "long waiting" and quiet presence will be missed by all of us. As she now beholds Jesus in his radiant glory, she knows the answer to all her sufferings.

Sister Charlotte spent 42 years of her religious life in religious education, social work and in administrative positions in the missions of Indiana, New Mexico, California, Colorado, Wyoming, Michigan and Texas. Sister Charlotte was a delegate to the first two canonical Chapters and was elected third councilor at the Third Canonical Chapter. She served three years on that Council.

Sister Charlotte told the story (TMC 3/1932) of two Catechists coming from one of their missions out of Las Vegas to tell Sister that a man had been gored by a bull. Sister knew that they must get him to the hospital quickly. When they arrived at the home, they found the man not as seriously injured as they expected, and they treated him, left medication and returned home. Several Sundays later, when the two Catechists returned to Ojo del Medio they saw a strange sight. Five persons were walking slowly in procession, a woman, three girls and lastly the man, walking slowly over the sharp rocks barefoot. The woman was carrying something and as the Catechists drew nearer, they saw that it was a lovely picture of the Sacred Heart. In thanksgiving for the father's recovery, the family was having a procession in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Sister Charlotte was the daughter of the late Frank Conrad and Mathilda nee Friedrich Scheper and was born October 6, 1901 in Oldenburg, Indiana. She was the youngest of four children, the only girl among three brothers. She was educated in Immaculate Conception Academy and the Oldenburg High School. Before entering, she was employed as a stenographer in the office for the State Life Insurance Co. She entered the Congregation from St. Mary's Parish in Oldenburg, October 29, 1927 and made first profession of vows at Victory Noll March 25, 1930. Her class celebrated their Diamond Jubilee in 1987. Sister Charlotte was bedfast at that time

Sister Charlotte's brothers, Father Francis, Carl Rudolph and Lawrence preceded her in death. Carl's wife Frances, died in 1971 and Lawrence's wife Helen, died this past December. Sister Charlotte is survived by her niece, Roberta Gillis of Littleton, Co., and her nephews Jerry and David Scheper of Indianapolis. Roberta, Jerry and David were unable to be present for the funeral.

Our wake service for Sister Charlotte was held in Memorial Chapel on Thursday, February 8th at 7:05 p.m. Sister Callista lead the service. Sr. Carolyn lit the Easter Candle for the beginning prayer. Sr. Mary Joan did the reading and Sr. Kathleen Leven gave a short reflection on Psalm 27 which speaks of the Lord as our Light and our Salvation. We used this psalm as our community prayer and after the reflection we used the theme of LIGHT as our response to the intercessions. The service was very meaningful!

Father Bede, OFM Cap., celebrated the Liturgy and sang the words of Consecration. Sisters Gertrude, Francis K., and Lorraine carried the cross and candles, Camilla and Florentine placed the pall on the casket, Rose Elizabeth and Christopher did the readings, Carmen sang the Responsorial Psalm and the Alleluia verse, Victoria offered the prayers of the faithful, Margarita and Magdalenes L. brought up the gifts. Sr. Rita gave the homily, Sr. Martha the eulogy and Sr. Virginia the prayers of commendation.

Sister Rita likened Sister Charlotte's life these past years to the sufferings of Job. Then quoting St. Paul and St. John, she offered us a deeper penetration into the life of suffering with all its pain. "St. Paul," she said, "reminds us that we belong to heaven, not to this earth, and our citizenship is there, not here." "St. John," she said, "consoles us with the promise of Jesus that he has prepared a place for us in his Father's house; the way to that home is through Him, the Way, the Truth, and the Life!" Sister Rita ended her homily with the call to give thanks and praise and celebrate because like Sister Charlotte, our citizenship is with Jesus!

Sister Martha divided her eulogy of Sister Charlotte into three parts, Sister Charlotte's beginnings, her entrance into our Congregation and her life as a Missionary sister and lastly, her mission of suffering at Victory Noll. Sister's eulogy brought out many points that all who knew Sister Charlotte could relate to very readily. Sister ended these insights with her own thoughts: "The twelve long years of her illness with its physical and mental disability presses me to look deeply at the question of the true meaning of life and my so-called 'usefulness' within it. I pray that as we commit her body to our Holy Ground, Sister Charlotte's SPIRIT may enliven us to go forward into the future of our Congregation. And to Sister Charlotte: It is a joy to say to you today what we sang to you last night -- "No more shall the sun be your light by day; No more the moon's beam enlighten you by night. Jesus shall be your everlasting light and GOD shall be your glory!" (Sion Sing - Lucien Deiss)

How unconditionally, irrevocably, we are loved! How faithful God has been to us throughout our life! What a wonderful surprise to see and understand the fulfillment of Jesus' promise, "I shall come back to take you with me, that where I am you also may be." I believe that Sister Charlotte felt that joy when she broke through the mystery of death to behold Jesus in radiant glory . . . waiting for her! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Again, we praise and give thanks to God for the expression of his love shown to us through our dear Sisters.

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,

Sister Germaine Stadler