



SISTER DELORES McGINLEY, OLVM

Sister Delores McGinley, OLVM, age 100, a resident of Victory Noll, died April 1, 2013 at Holy Family Health Care Center at Victory Noll, Huntington, Indiana.

Sr. Delores was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on September 15, 1912. She was the only daughter of Frank and Anne McGinley, having an older brother George and twin younger brothers, Joseph and Francis. She was baptized Mary Delores on October 6, 1912 at St. Edward's Catholic Church. Her parents and three brothers all precede her in death.

Although Sr. Delores was born in Philadelphia, after the death of her father, her mother returned to Ireland where she was raised until the age of 14 when she came back to the United States and lived with relatives in New York and Ohio until she entered the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters on November 26, 1946. She made first vows on August 5, 1949.

Sr. Delores was a very mobile missionary serving in 11 states: Colorado, Utah, California, New Jersey, Missouri, Texas, New Mexico, Wyoming, Arizona and Michigan before returning to Victory Noll in 1997. She worked in religious education, health care, as a parish pastoral associate, as a pastoral care team volunteer, and proofreader.

Sister's very first mission was in Denver with four other sisters at the Holy Ghost Youth Center in one of the poorer sections of downtown Denver. They typically did home visiting in the morning then parish census & religious education classes after school in the afternoon. Evenings at the Center were fun times for the sisters as well as for the students with games, ping pong & shooting pool.

In 1965 during the civil rights struggles, Sr. Delores was in Kennett, Missouri and she sent a note to Sr. Margaret Ann Harrison, General Secretary. At the end of the note Sr. Delores wrote: "Please say a prayer for my high-schoolers, they are "crawling" with racial prejudice but the poor things don't know it. Am trying to thaw it out, but have not been very successful so far." She realized that the situation called for prayer, to help these young people realize the reality that all people have human dignity and self worth.

In a letter of recommendation found in Sr. Delores' file, the writer commented on her ability to work with all age groups. "She has special compassion for the poor and also for the elderly. Her quick smile and wonderful humor are strong qualities that enable others to be at ease with her." Those are the qualities that most who knew Sr. Delores would recognize.

Another sister remembered being missioned with Sr. Delores and how they often had to drive on snowy roads, Sr. Delores would say, "I will pray the rosary and you drive." The sister concluded by saying, "She was a great Missionary!"

In going through Sr. Delores' file to write this letter about her life, I also came upon a letter she wrote in 1983 requesting "Morning has Broken" to be one used at her funeral, which it was. Her comment, "I love that hymn; speaking of new life, it is so appropriate for the post-Easter season." Yes, Sr. Delores, it is so appropriate for the Easter season and since your death occurred on the day after Easter, it is even the more appropriate. One of the other songs she had chosen was "Without Seeing You" by Lucien Deiss. The song speaks of Jesus' words to Thomas, "blessed are those who believe without seeing." It was another wonderful Easter message that Sr. Delores lived and shared in many ways during her life and shared with us at her death.

The gospel reading was about the Eucharist and Fr. Thomas Fahey spoke of Sr. Delores' faith, a faith that was nourished with the Eucharist, our greatest treasure. He concluded by saying, "Sr. Delores loved the Eucharist, it gave her a long life and she made good use of every moment of it."

Sr. Delores, your Irish eyes were often smiling and your heart filled with a song. May you now gaze upon the glories of the Resurrection in new and radiant light!

In the hope of the resurrection,

Sr. Leger Dowry O'Rourke

