

Dead March 3, 1961

**ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL
MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA
March 9, 1961**

Dear Mothers and Sisters,

Sister M. Victoria, Catharina Rachel, passed quietly away on the afternoon of retreat Sunday, March 5th. Sister was eighty-four years old. She had been a professed Religious for fifty-five years, having made her vows in 1905 with the Sisters of St. Francis, of Tiffin, Ohio.

In 1914, with the permission of her Bishop, Sister Victoria joined our Order, and made her vows according to our Constitutions. Much of her life was spent in caring for the sick here at St. Joseph Hospital. Sister also worked for a number of years in Sacred Heart Hospital, Havre, Montana, and St. Joseph Hospital, Alliance, Nebraska.

During the past ten years, Sister Victoria's mind deteriorated rapidly. For some time before her death, she was unable to care for herself, or even to speak a coherent sentence. In spite of this fact, Sister was able to live with the Community until last September, when she was moved to a hospital room.

To us who lived with Sister during the last years of her life, she was a source of edification. When her mind and body had failed until only what was most basic to her remained, characteristics of piety, gratitude and kindness stood out clearly. Sister prayed almost unceasingly. Although her prayerbook was usually a "National Geographic" held upside down, yet the fervor of her "Alles mein Gott zu ehrin" must have touched the Heart of God. Invariably, when Sister's meal tray was taken in to her, she would clap her hands, exclaiming: "Oh! -- How nice! -- You're so good!" Often the "You're so good" ended up in a jumble of words but the gratitude expressed was unmistakable. Unmistakable also was her spirit of kindness when, before touching her tray, she would invitingly say: "You can have half," or, in a concerned-voice question: "Have you eaten yet?"

Many of the older graduate nurses who worked under Sister Victoria, when speaking of her, make special mention of how kind she was to them. At Sister's funeral in St. Leo's Parish Church on Wednesday, March 8th, these former graduates, together with the students of nursing, formed a guard of honor for Sister's body.

The Alumnae Association of the School of Nursing had a number of Masses offered for the repose of Sister's soul.

Yours in Christ,

Mother Muriel and Sisters