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April 30, 1980

Dear Sisters,

Someone once said of Mary Ward, "Once a friend, always a friend," and we really believe that speech to be true of our Joliet graduates and friends. The brief account and the enclosed articles are our way of sharing the experiences of that memorable day of the Pilgrimage.

We planned the day, but it would never have seen fruition if it had not been for the many people involved in the preparations. We would like to thank and mention those who assisted in the celebration.

Sister Mary Clare was our inspiration and resource person. Sisters Muriel Mauer, Jane Siciliano, and Anne Hyzy contacted newspapers and parish bulletin editors with information about us and the event. Sister Patricia Egan did the typing of the Mass booklet whose cover was so artistically designed by Sister Arlene Ashack. Sisters Jean Okroi, Jane Siciliano, and Sharon Smith have captured the entire day with their photography. Behind the scenes we had many involved including Sisters Elizabeth Crotty, Mary Kerna, Mary Alice Walsh, and Anne Hyzy. To each of these sisters and those mentioned later we are deeply grateful. We only hope we have not omitted any names and if we have, please forgive us and accept our sincere gratitude.

Prior to the graveside service, Mary Deiss, an 87 year old graduate of Joliet, invited all the IBVM's to a luncheon at Altiery's Restaurant in Joliet. She has much pride in being able to show her appreciation for all the sisters had done for her. She is a delightful woman who says she is "thirty-nine years old from the knees up." Thank you to Sister Denise and Sister Mary Ellen Dennehy who assisted Mary with the invitations and wrote a delightful thank you parody to "The Notre Dame Victory March" which we all sang as an expression of our gratitude to Mary Deiss. When we arrived that evening there was a treat of wine for every convent with Mary's compliments. This week each of those present at the dinner received a box of greeting cards and every envelope in every box had a postage stamp on it. She is an outstanding woman.

From the restaurant we went to Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Joliet for the service conducted by Sister Angelina. It was a very moving ceremony from beginning to end. Sister Angelina joined the West to the Mid-West by reading the most welcomed telegram sent to us from ours at St. Philomene Convent. Grace Creighton led us in the singing of "Ave Maria Loretto" while Sisters Denise, Beata, Laura, Catherine Hanlon, Frederica, Mary Lou Weislo, Muriel, and Marilyn Marsh placed a bouquet of flowers on each grave. This was followed by a decade of the Rosary and the singing of the Salve Regina. The ceremony took place under a canopy which had been erected under the thoughtful inspiration of the caretakers who thought we might need a covering in the 91° temperature.

At the conclusion of the graveside service, the Joliet Police gave us a motor escort conducted by Officers Everett Holt, James Ryan, and William Day. They

stopped all traffic on Ottawa Street until the entire cavalcade of forty-nine cars turned into the parking lot across from the church.

Bishop Imesch celebrated the liturgy with several of our clergy friends as concelebrants: Carmelites- Father William McDade, pastor emeritus of St. Cyril's, Father Niles, Superintendent of Joliet schools, Father Russell Gavin, Sister Irene's brother, now pastor at Alysford. Also present was Father Edward Boyle, former pastor of St. John Vianney in Northlake. His first priestly assignment had been at St. Mary's Church. Bishop Imesch delivered a simple homily with the idea that we have probably envisioned these former sisters of ours as having been very extraordinary women while they were more than likely very much like ourselves. We, too, have done and are doing great things, but it will take time for someone else to speak about them and appreciate them.

Sisters Margaret Quinlan and Claire Vandborg had planned a beautiful liturgy and the music of Sisters Therese Fenlon, Kay Foley, Elaine Iwanski, Claire Vandborg, and Carol Quinn, PBVM, added so much to the Mass. The first reading was given by Sister Patricia Hewitt; Sister Marguerite Caulfield read the petitions, and Sister Margaret Quinlan read a Communion meditation. The gifts were brought up by Sister Florence Maloney, Nell Collins, and Sister Sharon Whelan. Sister Mary Clare brought up a scrapbook filled with Joliet history and memories. As these sisters turned around to return to their pews, they received a round of applause. Sister Florence's smile was precious. As the only living member of the former Joliet faculty, she was thrilled to be present as were all of us by her presence.

Following the liturgy, Father John Fogarty, O.Carm, (who had also concelebrated the liturgy) the pastor of St. Mary's Church, and the people of St. Mary's Parish, most of them past graduates, honored us with a reception in the Priory Hall. We received from these loyal and loving people a check for \$1600 enclosed in a card reading, "Sincerely, your living students and friends." The message under the verse reads: "In appreciation of your long and dedicated service in the training of our young men and women (not our Senior Citizens) we ask you to please accept this check as a token of a job well done." We then sang two thank you songs to parodies written by Sister Mary Ellen Dennehy.

There was really only one regret of the day and that was the fact that Sister Callista was not able to be with us. When Sister Angelina asked her what she would like to remember about the day, her comment was, "Thank God I have lived to see it."

We would like to add a personal note of gratitude to the sisters of St. Catherine of Alexandria and St. John of the Cross with whom we live for their support and understanding during the time preceding the Pilgrimage. We would also like to say that we are sorry about the newspaper article stating we were from France and the omission of Unity High School from the list of schools in which we serve.

The event is about a week old now, but the fond memories of our founding sisters and loyal Joliet graduates are felt deeply by all of us. We hope we were able to give you a little flavor of the day through this account. You were all very much with us in spirit.

Lovingly in Christ,

Sister Patricia Maloney

Sister Marguerite Caulfield