



Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

St. Paul Province

Sister Victorine Long

March 5, 1920 - October 7, 2010

My soul gives glory to the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.

Luke 1:46-47

Sister Victorine, born to Charles A. and Clara (Freeze) Long on March 5, 1920, was baptized Ellen Clara Long. She grew up on a farm near Berlin, ND in a family that included her older sister, Marcella and five brothers: Leonard, Francis, Richard, John and Clement. Her brother Richard died in a farm accident at the age of three. Another brother, Francis, died in World War II. When Ellen was 11 years old, her mother died, leaving children ranging in age from 12 to 3. Providentially, her mother's twin sister, Theresia, stepped in to take her mother's place in caring for the children, and eventually her father married Theresia.

Ellen's education started in Berlin, ND, and she completed the last two years of high school as a boarder at St. John's Academy in Jamestown, ND. She received her Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from the College of St. Catherine and went on to complete a Masters degree in bacteriology and hematology at the University of Minnesota. The research she was doing in the laboratory at St. Joseph's hospital needed the skills of an electrician, so she went to night classes to also become an electrician.

Ellen entered the novitiate of the Sisters of St Joseph in 1937. On the Feast of St. Joseph, March 19, 1938 she received the habit and her religious name, Sister Victorine. Subsequently, Sister served in a wide variety of ministries. She was a medical technologist at three CSJ hospitals: St. Mary's Hospital in Minneapolis, St. John's Hospital in Fargo, ND, and St. Joseph's Hospital in St. Paul. Sister Victorine also served at St. Joseph's Hospital for twenty four years, working primarily in an animal research laboratory and assisting with early heart surgery research and experimentation leading to the development of the permanent pace maker.

In 1975, Sister Victorine left hospital ministry to help with the development of a new lay ministry program in the Fargo diocese. She then served as a house parent in a home for adults with mental disabilities. She retired in the spring of 1990; however, six months later, at the age of 70, she moved to Jonestown, Mississippi, to help set up a clinic where she ministered as bookkeeper, laboratory technologist, computer wiz and community volunteer for another nine years. She retired to Bethany convent in April, 1999.

Sister Victorine died peacefully at Bethany on October 7, the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in the Bethany Chapel on Saturday, October 9, 2010, with Father James Lynch presiding. Burial followed at Resurrection Cemetery. May she rest in peace.

Sister Victorine was preceded in death by her parents Charles and Clara, her step mother Theresia (Freeze) Long, her sister Marcella Siebles and her husband Alord, her brother Leonard and his wife Clara (Torgerson), her brothers Francis, Richard, John and Clement. She is survived by her sisters-in-law Christina (John) and Imelda (Clement), many nieces, nephews, grand and great grand nieces and nephews and the community of CSJ sisters and Consociates.