

THE COLLEGE OF ST. CATHERINE

ST. PAUL 5, MINNESOTA

Monday, June 22, 1959

Dear Katharine,

Your Air-mail letter arrived about an hour ago and now I understand that you know your condition is serious and that your days here are limited. It is well to know the actual facts because then you can arrange calmly for your departure for our eternal home. In what we call death is simply a transfer from this life of work and worry to the real and everlasting life of joy and happiness, in the bosom of our Heavenly Father.

Katharine, in spite of tears, I rejoice and congratulate you, for like St. Paul you have kept the faith, you have finished your course, and there is laid up for you an eternal treasure, God, Himself.

I am glad that you are back in your own apartment and no longer have to undergo those painful examinations and tests. Now your soul can depart in peace, surrounded by those you love and who love you.

God, Who abides in your soul, will support and comfort you unto the end and then will you hear those blessed words, "Come ye blessed one, enter into the joys of your Lord." There will be jubilation among the angels and saints and how our own departed ones will rejoice at your coming. And I rejoice, as I look forward to the time when I, too, shall take my departure and be greeted by you, all. So, now, Katharine, just relax and adjust yourself to God's will regarding you.

Harry and the neices and nephews will miss you, but soon you will be in a position to obtain blessings for them and thus repay their love and devotion.

I want your kind Landlord and Landlady to know that I deeply appreciate all that they have done and are still doing for you. May God give them their reward and also bless all who are near and dear to them. As they have meeted to you, so will it be meeted again to them, according to our Lord's own words.

Today I also received a long letter from Clara with all the details which has prepared me for the inevitable. It is comforting to know that you have received the Sacrament of Extreme Unction, which cleanses the soul perfectly.

Katharine, don't try to say long prayers in your condition, but keep to short ones as you are doing and they will carry you through triumphantly.

To Harry and Erna and the dearchildren and to all our nieces and nephews and their families and to Arnold and to all who have been good to you, I send grateful thanks.

It gladdens me to know that Cecelia and baby are doing well, that Clara has graduated, that Tommy and Ann are taking swimming lessons and that all are well and happy and doing worthwhile things.

Katharine, I unite my love with the love of our God, which surrounds you and eagerly awaits the eternal embrace, for He has loved you with an eternal love.

Sister Elise

P.S My health is good and I am not worrying.

J.M.J.

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ST. PAUL 5, MINNESOTA

Tuesday, June 23, 1959

Dear Alice,

Yesterday, Monday, P.M. just after mailing another Air-mail letter to Katharine, I received your second letter. Earlier in the day I had received a long, newsy letter from Clara and one from Katharine written by her own hand, which I prize greatly, because I do not expect her to be able to write another.

And now, Alice, in regard to a conversation over the phone between Katharine and myself: I don't feel equal to it, neither do I think that Katharine should be put to that strain. Our emotions would overcome us and both of us would only cry over the phone and there wouldn't be any conversation. In my letters I can express myself more calmly, and I think Katharine also will be satisfied with that. It was most thoughtful and kind of you, Alice, to suggest the phone conversation and I am deeply grateful to you and to all concerned. I am certain that Katharine also appreciates the kindness.

Yours and Clara's detailed letters have given me a true picture of all events concerning our Katharine and I approve and am grateful for all.

According to all accounts, Katharine is truly a valient woman, strong in faith and knows how to utilize these last few days of grace in which our loving God is perfecting her with suffering, as the jeweler perfects the diamond with the final polishing.

It is a great comfort to me that she is so well cared for in soul and body by her loved ones ; we, who are left will soon have another advocate with our Father in Heaven. What a boon our faith is to us in times of joy and in times of sorrow. It keeps us balanced. Those who have not faith are certainly to be pitied.

Tell Katharine that the sisters continue to ask about her and are keeping her in their prayers. Those prayers are also helping me, because my health is good and my burden light, and my heart rejoices because of Katharine's wonderful disposition regarding her departure.

The weather at present is ideal and every evening after supper I take a walk around the campus. The grounds around the far orchard are especially good for strolls, that place where you, Maurice, Tommy and myself sat under the apple trees. Tommy did not sit for long though, but went about investigating and getting acquainted. You can look forward for great things from your Tommy; he has it in him. I am hoping and praying that his talents will be placed in the service of Him, who alone can fully appreciate great talent and devotion, and whose cause (the salvation of souls) is worthy of it.

I hope that you and Helen while caring for Katharine will not have to neglect your own dear ones. May the dear Lord give you all double strength.

I am glad to know that Cecelia and the new baby and all her dear ones are well. I hope that Arnold will spend some of his vacation with them, where he will get good, country air.

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Clara, Mary and Peter seem to keep well and busy. Clara certainly is making strides in her studies. She will be a great influence for good in her line of work. I know that she will take advantage of every opportunity to promote the glory of God and the salvation of souls as all of you do, I know.

Harry and family have always been attentive to Katharine, too, and I know that they will miss the visits with her, but soon she will be in a better position to obtain greater blessings for them.

I marvel at the kindness of Katharine's Landlord and Landlady; it is most exceptional. May God reward them and the other residents who have been kind to her. Our friend, Jane, will miss her, too.

Alice, I know that you will read this letter to Katharine as soon as possible for her time with us is very uncertain, and it is best that she understands it.

My love for her and all of you in the Sacred Heart is deep and enduring.

Sister Elise