

J.M.J.

Sunday, August 7, 1955

Dear Katherine And Marguerite,

It is a beautiful, cool morning and since I have my spiritual exercises attended to and my chores done I have decided to begin my letter, but I shall not mail it until the end of the week. During this week we shall be house cleaning and preparing for the return of the students.

The 2nd retreat which is now in session will close tomorrow morning and the sisters will disperse to to their own convents.

We are getting a change of Superiors this month and several new sisters are being missioned here. If the new superior measures up to the present one, we shall be very fortunate.

Marguerite, I mislaid your new address, so please write to me soon and give me the address again, else I can not send you a letter direct. I hope you are well and that Penny is giving you good companionship and protection.

I am glad that you had a visit with Helen recently. That place always seems more like the family home for all of us. I suppose it is because Alice raised the family in that house.

You were fortunate to find a good home for that wild Butch. He was just too much for you and the neighbors. Don't let anybody wish any more pets onto you.

Katherine, the letter you mailed Aug. 2nd with lots of good news was received. I am glad that Harry is doing so well in the brick work, he is a good provider and a good family man. I do hope that Arnold will have time to take you out to see Harry and family and the new home.

It was nice that Arnold could spend a week with Cecilia and Pat. I do hope that he will visit Sister Clarine, too.

Now, Katherine, I will tell you a little more about my trip to Green Bay and DePere; In visiting the different relatives we crossed the Fox River several times. Mary and I used to skate on that river when it froze over in the Winter time. Most of Uncle Mike's children, who are now real old, live either in Green Bay or DePere. Only two live on farms. Pat lives on the old place where Grandma Corrigan lived. He is the one who looks exactly like Uncle Mike as I knew him. He has all new buildings and everything modern. He and one of his daughters took Elizabeth Cywinski (Golden) and myself around the farm. We saw the cows and sheep and the fields of ripening grain were in good condition

In John Corrigan's house on his farm I saw a picture of Uncle Mike, Aunt Maggie and Maggie Jane. John is very old and can hardly walk, but he hangs onto the farm and wants to live there until he dies. His first wife is dead and he and his second wife live all alone there. His children are grown and all away. His farm is in Lena, Wisc, about thirty miles from Green Bay. It was Mike who drove us there and the scenery all the way was beautiful.

I was in several group picture that were taken during my visit with the relatives and if they send me some I will send one to you and Marguerite. Elizabeth and the Cywinski girls have written to me since I am home but no picture have come yet.

When I was leaving Elizabeth and the Cywinskis gave me a gift of \$9.00 with which I bought myself a new missal and more Sacred Heart badges. Did you receive the badges and holly-hock seeds that I sent you lately?

Charlie's wife is a good cook and I enjoyed my meals there. The first morning when she was frying fresh eggs for breakfast, I said, "If you are frying an egg for me, please fry

Wednesday, Jan. 9th

Marguerite, It is a bitterly cold day here and I should not care to walk far. You can be thankful that you are in sunny California. The hungry squirrels did not venture out in this cold. They prefer hunger to this freezing weather.

Another one of our elderly sisters died at our Bethany Home and I went over to her Wake. I was invited by the sisters to take some refreshments, but since my time was limited that day, I did not partake.

The picture that I am enclosing is of our new Altar and it is at that rail in front of it that I receive Holy Communion daily, in which you all are included. Our Chapel is quite large and spacious. During the summer the whole interior of the Chapel, which is of Mankato stone, was washed.

Katherine, I received your letter yesterday P.M. The one you mailed Jan. 7th. I have received all of your letters up to date. U.S. certainly handles the mail business well. I suppose Maurice Murphy, being the Assistant there, accounts for that.

I am glad that you all had such a nice Christmas and that Harry and Erna and Arnold and the others were so generous with their gifts.

Yesterday morning I was most pleasantly surprised to find three letters in my mail box, one from Catherine de Ganna, one from Alice Murphy and one from Little Cecilia Murphy. I have already answered them. Catherine de Ganna's letter was a twelve-page one, with all the news of the family. It was a most satisfying letter. She brought me up to date in regard to her family, Alice's family and Jimmies family. She is so much like her father in writing.

I can imagine, Katherine, how much pleasure you get out of your phone. You can keep in touch with all the relatives and friends. The radio, too is a source of pleasure and information.

We had a short movie last evening; it was an instructive one showing the development of architecture which culminated in the building of the great Cathedrals of Europe. It was very interesting.

I am enclosing a leaflet on the benefit of using Holy water. I hope that you always keep a bottle of it in your house at all times. The other leaflet shows the importance that Our Holy Father, the Pope attaches to the devotion of the Sacred Heart. We can thank Papa and Mamma for the devotion we have to the Sacred Heart, for they practiced it and instilled it in us.

I am glad, Katherine, that you had a chance to see Pat while he was home on vacation. It is certainly nice that he can be with the family so often. I think his sister, Alice, has a religious vocation, and I do think that when she has finished school she will enter the convent. The Lord needs generous souls, like hers, to help Him fill Heaven.

As I am running out of talk, I'll say Good Bye with love and prayers

Sister Elise

it hard, turn it over and break the yolk." I thought I would start her out right, for I am finiky about eggs and cannot eat them unless they are cooked just so. She fried two eggs for me with bacon nearly every morning and they were just right and I did enjoy them.

Katherine, I am glad to know that you got a good share of apples, plums and cherries from Clara and Al, and it was nice of Alice to bring them to you. It is fortunate for Helen and family that Alice can drive a car. There seems to be a wonderful family spirit among all our relatives and that makes for real happiness.

Last week I wrote to Frank. I hope he is well. I suppose whoever goes to see Clara and Al, also gets in touch with Frank.

I think I shall stop writing now, although I have been very comfortable here by an open window in Caecilian Hall. The day is lovely with a cool breeze coming through the window.

We are going to have a chicken dinner today, so I have been told, and I am looking forward to it. There will be icecream for dessert, I am sure. I shall show my appreciation.

Tuesday, August 9th

Yesterday I received a letter from the Cywinski girls with the pictures we had taken while I was out in the country. I think they are good so am sending you some of them. Please see that Marguerite gets one.

The retreat closed yesterday and all the sisters returned to their own convents. The campus seems very silent and empty today. The day is delightfully cool. I slept with two blankets on me last night.

Wednesday, August 10th

I am going to add a few more lines to this letter for I want to tell you that Elizabeth sent me another letter yesterday, a very friendly letter. She was most devoted to me while I was on my visit. I answered her letter this morning and enclosed a folder of our campus. I shall enclose one for you, too.

I expect your weekly letter tomorrow, so will hold this open until it arrives and maybe I shall have a few more items by then. Now I am going over to the service building to get a cup of coffee. Good Bye until tomorrow.

Thursday, August 11th

About ten minutes ago I picked up your letter in my mail box, the one dated, Aug. 8th. Katherine, you surely have a wonderful memory. Somehow or other I had forgotten all about Grandma Corrigan's burial place, but since reading your letter I remember everything you mentioned. I did want to see the big white house we lived in, if it were still in existence, but I could not remember where it was or the name of the street. If I had remembered about the cemetery I might have remembered that our house was just across the field. There were large hickory nut trees in that big field and we youngsters got the most of them. If ever I go back to DePere I shall look up Grandma's grave. You see I was with the Cywinskies most of the time, and since all those relatives in and around Green Bay and De Pere are only cousins, they didn't know so much about the older members, and it was 60 years since I was there, so that is why I forgot some things.

I am glad that you get so much satisfaction out of your room and your phone. I do not want to start another page, so will say, Good Bye and God bless you all

Lovingly,

Sister Elise

PS I will send the campus folder some other time.