



Eulogy of Sister Mary Enid Lodding, BVM (Enid)
Marian Hall Chapel, Aug. 1, 2018

Good morning and welcome to the celebration of life of our Sister Mary Enid Lodding.

Ruth Katherine Lodding was born in Chicago on March 14, 1927, joining her sisters Lilian and Loretta as the youngest daughter of Edward and Lillian Lenick Lodding. Her father died just days after Ruth's fifth birthday. Her mother found a job at the A. B. Dick Company, a manufacturer of office machines and supplies, and she worked hard to provide all three daughters with a Catholic education. While her sisters attended Sacred Heart ES, Ruth was sent to a Benedictine school closer to home because she was so young. All three girls graduated from St. Mary HS.

After graduation, Ruth worked part-time as a records clerk during the summer until she entered the congregation on Sept. 8, 1944. She was one of the younger postulants since many entered with several years of work or college experience, some with college degrees. She received the name Enid upon her reception on March 19, 1945, professed first vows on March 19, 1947, and lived 73 years as a BVM.

Enid taught first and second grades for 22 years. Her first mission was Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Chattanooga, Tenn., and was followed by missions in Illinois at St. Agatha in Chicago, Sacred Heart in Rock Island, and St. Anne in East Moline. She also taught at St. Mathias in Muscatine, St. Mary in Iowa City, and St. Paul in Davenport, all in Iowa, and St. John in Seattle, and Queen of Peace in Portland Ore. Her favorite mission was Sacred Heart in Rock Island. She called the convent, whose residents included Sisters Joan Doyle, Helen Jeanne Hurley, and Marcellita Brown as superior, "a very happy, interesting household." When Joan had her first heart surgery, Enid served as her infirmarian.

In 1969, Enid began her 30-year mission in pastoral ministry as a religious education teacher at the Catholic Student Center in Iowa City, Iowa. When the Student Center separated from St. Thomas More Parish, Enid was hired as a pastoral associate to serve as the director of religious education for the parish, making her part of the first pastoral team in the Diocese of Davenport. She later ministered as a pastoral associate at Our Lady of the Wayside in Arlington Heights, Ill., and was the director of religious education at St. Philip the Apostle in Addison, Ill. Enid commented during an interview that, "To be pastoral means to be aware of and to minister to the deep needs of persons . . . to meet them at those points in their lives where they hunger for meaning and for genuine relationship. To be part of the decision-making team in a parish allows me to work with youth, their families, the elderly and shut-ins. And I become more sensitive to my role as a religious woman."

When Enid announced her retirement in 1999, the pastor of St. Phillip the Apostle Parish wrote, "Sister Enid has shared generously in the faith formation of our parish children. She has been an inspiration to her teachers, her students, and all who are challenged to do God's work. Her contagious laughter and joy were always in evidence as she shared her gifts unselfishly."

Enid moved to Wright Hall in 2001 and, like so many, had mixed emotions when Wright Hall was closed. She was "anxious to see what lies ahead" knowing that "uprooting is part of our life from the very beginning." In that

spirit, she returned to Mount Carmel in 2010 to complete her journey as a Sister of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Four years later while reflecting back on the move, she simply and beautifully commented, "I love it here!"

Enid found great joy in being with others. She was often the life of the party, a person who easily conversed with anyone. She had a good sense of humor and even enjoyed Sister Helen Jeanne Hurley's jokes told in a poetic form. Her kindness and generosity were evident by a willingness and readiness to lend a hand at any moment. Such warmth and enthusiasm radiated from her bright eyes and big, beautiful smile that some nicknamed her "Jesus' Little Sunbeam."

Multiple health issues beset Enid's later years, yet for a long time she did not allow them to weigh her down. At her first anointing a few years ago, she said to the priest, "I'm not dead yet!" Enid appreciated the assistance received from so many at Mount Carmel, including Sister Catherine Jean Hayen, who supplied her with books on tape. She expressed deep gratitude for the friendship of Sister Carl Loras Pilmaier who not only read to her to keep her abreast of congregational news and served as her letter writer, but probably save her life when she slipped into a diabetic coma. While health issues in the last few months affected her personality, at least one facet about Enid remained the same – she loved her ice cream treats.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus declares, "I am the way and the truth and the life . . . If you know me, then you will also know my Father." At Enid's farewell from Our Lady of the Wayside, the pastor expanded upon the Gospel, saying, "We [also] get to know the love of God through one another, reflecting [God] in our goodness. [Sister Enid] . . . has been a constant and consistent example, for all of us, of both the tenderness and the extent of God's love. How truly 'Love begets love.' Sister, we wish you peace and joy."