# IN MEMORY OF ELLEN GALEN CARTER

An Address Delivered before The Board of Trinity College,
Washington, D. C., at the Memorial Exercises for
Mrs. Thomas H. Carter
December 3rd, 1933,
By
Mrs. John J. (Alice N.) Noonan.

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It seems but fitting, on this occasion that I whom you have honored with the office so long occupied, almost from the commencement of the College, by her whose passing we here commemorate, I on whose inadequate shoulders the mantle of her authority has fallen, should pay a brief tribute to one who labored so long for Trinity, whose cause she has so nobly advanced. I sit in her chair, but in reality her chair is vacant, and will ever be. There will be no second Ellen Carter.

It seems but yesterday that she presided on an occasion like this, and by her side the gracious form of lovely Louise Kolb.

I bear you tidings this morning of another fresh bereavement - Margaret Talty. At our next meeting we will give you for the benefit of those who never met her, a resumé of her brave and cheerful life.

As they pass in shadowy review before me, all those of us who have passed on an old refrain rises to my lips - "For the friendship of good women, Lord, give I my thanks today."

Holy Mother Church makes a feast day of the death days of her saints. She would direct our attention not to their departure from this world but to their entrance into a better, the glad acclaim, "the choiring of the young-eyed cherubim".

As I read the lesson of the day in the Mass common of holy women, I am struck with amaze when I note what virtue she stresses most. It is not the one that I in my blindness would have picked. I would have said that meekness, sacrifice, charity or long patience was the hall mark of saintliness, for women, but the Church says valor. The lesson is chosen from the Book of Wisdom 31st Proverb "who shall find a valiant women? Far and from the uttermost coast is the price of her."

Ellen Galen Carter was a valiant woman. She was born in 1861 in Tumwater, Washington, near what is now the thriving city of Seattle, then a wilderness, over which the bison and the Indian roamed unchallenged. Her pioneer parents Hugh and Matilda Galen, took up the long trek again, in 1870, Ellen being in her ninth year, and traveling by covered wagon, over the old Oregon trail, came, in the old gold rush days of Last Chance Gulch, to

Helena, Montana. They encountered on this journey fresh traces of Indian Massacres, bodies lately scalped. In such brave and dangerous days Nellie passed her childhood. To Indian massacres were added the threat of marauding horse thieves and banditry. Days when the Vigilantes those doughty founders of law and order, took the law into their own hands, and gave short shrift to evil doers. Nellie Galen, trudging to the convent school must daily pass an old pine tree that for its height and strength had been chosen by the Vigilantes for their scaffold, and often she must pass a ghastly form, swinging there, paying in that last dance upon the air for the violence it had wrought. The tree with its horrid burdens could be seen from the convent, and the sharp contrast carried a stronger lesson than all the books that Nellie Galen studied. On one hand the pine tree with its dead fruit, on the other, the convent offering the Bread of Life. The brave band of women who had left all that life held dear to carry the word of God into this dangerous land. No wonder Ellen Galen was a valiant woman, and a religious one. She knew what each implied.

The Galen home was the center of the religious life of the settlement. It held all the necessities of the Mass for the visiting priest. They made and laundered the altar linen, they baked the unleavened wafers for the Sacrement. This girl was rightly named Ellen, Helena for she helped establish the cross, where it had never been before. Long years after, I was standing with her before the Votiv Kirche in Vienna, admiring its modern adaptation of Gothic architecture, she said she had asked the architect of the new Cathedral in Helena, to use it for his model, which he did. She said "I am so glad that our capital is named Helena. Its a good omen". A good omen, and a long upward climb from the little church in the pioneer settlement.

And it was at the little organ in this church that she acquired her deep love for music, especially liturgical music, one of the passions of her life. You have heard her play the organ in Trinity Chapel, and you know that one of her last gifts was the chimes of that organ, which you heard played so beautifully this morning.

From the convent school at Helena she went to St. Mary's College in Indiana, traveling part way by stage-coach and then by train. She won the gold medal for music here and her proud father told her to choose any piano she wished for his present. She chose a Chickering Grand. It had to be ordered from the factory, and when it arrived in Helena, they had to take out the side of the house to install it, and the whole town made a festival of the occasion.

In 1885 Ellen Galen married a rising young lawyer of Helena, Thos. H. Carter, also of pioneer type. Mr. Carter came to Washington, D. C., as the last territorial delegate of Montana. He was its first representative and later Senator, which office he held until his death.

Their marriage was an ideal one. Of her could our preacher in Ecclesiastes have said, "the heart of her husband trusteth in her, he hath no need of spoils". A sermon could be preached of a good woman, on that phrase alone, "The heart of her husband trusteth in her, he hath no need of spoils". "She shall render him good and not evil all the days of his life. He is honorable in the gates, where he sitteth among the Senators of the Land."

Mrs. Carter took a part, a leading part, in all the social, charitable and educational life of Washington. She was a member for many years of the Board of Children's Guardians, of the Christ Child Society, of the Work for Poor Churches. But always her chief interest lay in Trinity. There she found a fallow field for her labors and a most congenial work. Trinity College, just opening its doors was the first Catholic institution for higher education for women in America, and Mrs. Carter set out to make it widely known in America. With the help of her husband's prestige as well as by his vigorous personal assistance, she secured benefits from public and private sources. Accompanied by her brilliant friend Ella Loraine Dorsey she traveled all over the United States, establishing branch auxiliary boards, securing promises of scholarships, getting gifts and endowments, getting Trinity College before the public, making friends for it everywhere. The beautiful O'Connor Gallery, with the wing of the main building which shelters it, valued at half a million dollars, was one of the fruits of this awakened interest.

"She is like the Merchant ship," says the 31st Proverb, "she bringeth her bread from afar". Or as Our Lord phrased it, "A sower went out to sow seed". These two staunch women went out like sowers of grain, scattering their seed far and wide, and the harvest from that sowing is coming back to Trinity, and will continue to come, while Trinity stands. It is as a tribute to their work that the Board has named the Washington City Scholarships the "Anna Hanson Dorsey Scholarships", in honor of Miss Dorsey's mother, the well known author.

In 1923 the degree of Master of Letters was conferred on Mrs. Carter and Miss Dorsey. It was a gala occasion, and perhaps the proudest moment of Ellen Carter's life. Only one other had ever been so honored. A Doctorate had been conferred on Elizabeth, Queen of the Belgians, on the occasion of the visit of the Royal Pair to this country in 1919. The mother house of the Notre Dame Order is in Namur, and the Queen of the Belgians is its hereditary patroness. It was in recognition of her position in Trinity that the Queen of the Belgians received and entertained Mrs. Carter on her last trip abroad.

The last letter I received from her sick bed in Providence Hospital, Seattle, was touchingly reminiscent of these days, for she asked if I would write my daughter in Brussels to secure a picture of Queen Elizabeth in her Trinity cap and gown, saying she would like to add it to the other two of

herself and Miss Dorsey. The request was granted but too late to gladden her hours, now rapidly drawing to a close. This same letter had a picture, a colored photograph of a scene there, with the title, "The day's last glow."

Mrs. Carter's teas and receptions for the members of the Board and for the students of Trinity were brilliant and enjoyable events. She had a dignified and courteous manner and true courtesy of heart. The proverb says "And the law of clemency was on her tongue." I have never known a more charitable woman than Ellen Carter. I speak not of alms giving but of the real charity of ~~her~~ the heart that never listens willingly to carping words and slander, never repeats and certainly never originates any. I say it deliberately and after careful weighing of my words, that the Ellen Carter I knew through so many long years was the most charitable woman I have ever known.

Last year, after a long and wearing illness she had a great longing to revisit the scenes of her childhood and her early womanhood. A longing that would not be denied. She visited old friends and relatives, she retraced old paths, even as far as Alaska, then, like a homing bird, she came to rest at Seattle, close to her birth place. There after a serious accident, she was taken to Providence Hospital, the beautiful hospital which from a height overlooks Puget Sound and the sunset, "The day's last glow".

It was such an end as she would have wished, back to her beginning, surrounded by those who had followed with natural pride, the wonderful career of one of their own people, loving, revering her, surrounding her with affectionate care. The resident chaplain, a Jesuit, was ever ready to console her, and most wonderful of all, his Holiness cabled his blessing from Rome. At the time of the Jubilee Year, she had visited Rome as representative of the Work for Poor Churches, and had been granted a private audience with his Holiness, had also attended Mass at his private chapel, and received Communion at his hands. The pomp and circumstance of that visit to Rome was often related by her. It was the high peak of her life, the summit of a long climb up from the little pioneer cabin in Tumwater. Now that visit sends its after glow, to illumine her last hours, a glow that is reflected on the wondering faces of the religious, as the cabled message is passed from hand to hand.

And it was no light coincidence, but the eternal providence of God, that among those religious was the aged Sister Conrad, who as a child had rocked Nellie Galen in her cradle and watched over her. Now in her last hour she watches over her again, and to her is alloted to carry the message, "Nellie, it is time for you to fold your hands for the last time, and go to sleep".

May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

HOTEL LAFAYETTE
SIXTEENTH ST. AT EYE NORTHWEST,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

JEFFERSON L. FORD, JR.
PRES. & GEN'L. MGR.

CHAS. P. GAY,
RES. MGR.

March 5
1934

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Carter:

I am sending herewith copy of the historical sketch of the Board of Auxiliary Regents of Trinity College. Your dear departed Mother was such a prime part of the Board for a quarter of a century that I believe you will be glad to have a copy of the report.

With kind regards and best wishes, believe me,

Sincerely yours,
Nellie E. Healy

Mr. and Mrs. John Galen Carter,
3428 Ashley Terrace, N. W.,
Cleveland Park,
Washington, D. C.

RADIO
RESTAURANT AND COFFEE SHOP
ROOF GARDEN - MAY TO SEPTEMBER
RADIO

AUXILIARY BOARD OF REGENTS OF TRINITY COLLEGE

HISTORICAL SKETCH

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It seems fitting on laying down the duties of Recording Secretary of the Auxiliary Board of Trinity College that you should be given instead of a review of the past year's activities a very brief history of the Board from its beginning nearly thirty-six years ago and a more specific history since the beginning of my incumbency in the office of Recording Secretary nineteen years ago, that is February 7, 1915, to February 18, 1934, the present date.

Ground was broken for the College June 21, 1899, but the Board was organized more than a year before that time, or on March31, 1898, by Mrs. Alice Worthington. This organization took place at a meeting of eleven ladies at the Notre Dame Convent, North Capitol and K Streets, Rt. Rev. Philip J. Garrigan, then Vice President of the Catholic University of America and later Bishop of Sioux City, Iowa, addressing the meeting. Miss Olive Seward was elected President, Miss Marie Patterson Vice President, Miss Sara Carr

Upton Recording Secretary, and Mrs. Maurice Francis Egan Corresponding Secretary. Soon Miss Seward and Miss Upton went abroad and Mrs. Thomas H. Carter was elected to succeed Miss Seward as President. Mrs. Egan succeeded Mrs. Carter for one term and Miss Ella Loraine Dorsey succeeded Mrs. Egan for two terms. With these exceptions Mrs. Carter held the office of President uninterruptedly from 1907 to 1932, when because of ill health she was obliged to relinquish the duties of President and was appointed Honorary President. Doctor Mary O'Malley succeeded Mrs. Carter in February, 1932, and after one year's incumbency was obliged to forego reelection because of press of other duties and was appointed Honorary President. Mrs. John J. Noonan succeeded Doctor O'Malley February 5, 1933, and is at present our beloved leader.

In 1915 it was decided that there was nothing in the constitution to prohibit the election of five Vice Presidents, consequently Mrs. Charles Bennett Smith, Miss Shanley, Miss Dorsey, Mrs. Doocey, and Mrs. Daugherty were elected, and Miss Mary Roach was appointed Honorary Vice President. The next year, February 6, 1916, Miss Dorsey, Miss Richards, Miss Shanley, Mrs. Coope, and Mrs. Doocey were elected, and Mrs. Arthur Powell Davis, who had been Corresponding Secretary

for some time, was appointed Second Honorary Vice President. The succeeding years but one Vice President was elected. These were Miss Shanley, who served till February 1, 1920; Mrs. Hartnett from 1920 to February 14, 1926; Mrs. J. Leo Kolb, of beloved memory, from 1926 to February 7, 1932, and who was Acting President during practically all the time from October 5, 1930; and Mrs. Robert L. Graves from 1932 to the present time.

The Recording Secretary during the past nineteen years was the writer; the Corresponding Secretaries were Mrs. Arthur Powell Davis from February 7, 1915, and for some time before, to February 6, 1916; Mrs. John J. Noonan from February 6, 1916, to February 2, 1919; and Miss Rose A. Dugan from 1919 to the present time.

I can not pass from the subject of the officers of the Board without a word regarding Mrs. Carter and Miss Dorsey. These inspirational, indefatigable leaders were with the Board from its beginning and were with it heart and soul. No undertaking for Trinity was too great and time was all too short for their work in its behalf. They went from place to place making the college known, and as a result of their work and persuasions scholarships and gifts for fur-

nishing and equipment of various kinds began arriving. Within a decade the amount contributed for scholarships was $70,000. The munificent gift of Judge and Mrs. M. P. O'Connor came as a result of the College being made known. This gift consisted of the art collection and the wing of the main building to house it, valued at about half a million dollars.

In her report in 1906 Miss Dorsey expressed the statement that was hers and Mrs. Carter's guiding star in their work for Trinity: "The first step toward securing anything in this life is to want it; the next is to want it so intensely as to work for it; and the third to work for it so intensely as to win it."

Senator Carter, whose zeal for the success of Trinity was second only to that of Mrs. Carter, secured through his official position many improvements and advantages for the College. There was neither street nor roadway when the building was started.

> Where Trinity now lifts its dome
> Wild Nature's children used to roam.
> Where flows this great Pierian spring
> The stately forest tree was king.

Through Senator Carter roadways, water supply, and similar necessities, which could be obtained only with the consent

of Congress, were provided.

Each year the Board sponsors a card party, the first one having been held in the home of Mrs. O'Donohue in 1919. The chairmen of these parties were Mrs. Wechsler, Mrs. Haskell, Mrs. Kolb, Mrs. Joynt, Mrs. Cassidy, Mrs. Hannan, and at present Miss Carroll. Beginning in 1929 these card parties were combined with a ball or tea dance. Miss Carroll was in charge of this latter feature, and the social and financial success attained and the well-deserved compliments paid by the hotels where the parties were held to the conduct of the young ladies and gentlemen in attendance, were not only the highest tribute to them but also to the superior judgment and discrimination and the earnest and unselfish work of Miss Carroll. What she has done in this connection should go down in the history of the Board.

Besides the card parties and the tea dances and balls, Mrs. Noonan, with a group under her leadership, sponsored a musicale in 1916; Miss Carroll sponsored a concert in 1917; Miss Richards gave a lecture in 1918; the Gonzaga players gave My New Curate in 1919; a series of splendid lectures were given under the sponsorship of Prof. Francis J. Hemelt in 1920; and Mrs. Noonan gave a lecture on European Shrines in 1924.

The income from these events, with the annual dues of

the members, and founders fees and life-membership fees enabled the Board to undertake five projects for Trinity.

The first of these was the Anna Hanson Dorsey scholarships, four of which were established for young ladies of the District of Columbia. The endowment of these, which was ten thousand dollars, was half completed nineteen years ago. Because of the depression the income from this amount became insufficient and the deficit was voted to Sister President by the Board at its meeting last October. Already twenty graduates have gone out from these scholarships, and as long as Trinity shall endure one graduate will emerge each year, bearing aloft the torch of spirituality and the learning with which she has been imbued by teaching and example.

As the Chapel was under construction in 1921 and the scholarships were completed early in 1922 the Board decided its second project would be to provide a marble Communion rail for the new building. This was completed, paid for, the cost being $3,500, and was all in readiness for the dedication of the Chapel May 13, 1924.

The next undertaking was the purchase of a plot of land to round out the campus. The cost of this was $1,544.94 and payment was completed June 7, 1925.

As 1925 was the jubilee year of Trinity College the Board presented Sister Superior with a set of gold vestments as its contribution to the celebration of the jubilee. The students celebrated it at their commencement, the older graduates coming from different parts of the country. At the alumnae banquet there were 250 students, and 300 marched in the procession to the Baccalaureate Mass, among them being eight religious. These walked with their respective classes and wore the class colors on the sleeve of their habit. The Board marched in the procession.

October 25 of that year was the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first visit of the Blessed Sacrament to Trinity, that is October 25, 1900. This anniversary was fittingly celebrated with a Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving, Archbishop Curley being the celebrant. About seventy clergymen, the students, et al, and the Board were present. The gold vestments were worn at this Mass. After the religious exercises a delicious luncheon was given by the Sisters.

Following this anniversary was the celebration of Sister Raphael's feast day, November 22. On this occasion the Board tendered to Sister Raphael and all the Sisters of Trinity a reception. Monsignor Pace made an address, which

was followed by Benediction. A beautiful musical program was rendered by Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Grogan, and Miss Dorsey gave a historical sketch of the Board. Among the distinguished guests were Rev. Charles W. Lyons, S. J., Georgetown University; Rev. Francis Lyon, C. S. P., College of St. Paul; and Rev. James Burns, Holy Cross College.

The fifth project undertaken by the Board was the establishment of a Students' Loan Fund, and this is our present objective, on which considerable advance has been made. The object of this fund is to assist students who become financially embarrassed during their four-year course. This is a most deserving cause and one that exists in most large colleges, I believe.

Besides these projects for Trinity College the Board contributed a Chaplain's outfit for a chaplain in the World War. As this project was undertaken near the close of the War the outfit was turned over to St. Elizabeth's Asylum Church. It was pronounced by Father Ahearn, of treasured memory, as one of the most beautiful of all the chaplain outfits furnished.

The Board maintains what is known as the Mass and Flower Fund. This was established May 5, 1925. From this fund an

offering is made for a Mass for the repose of the soul of each of those members whom Charon ferries across the river and flowers are sent to each member suffering from "the ills that flesh is heir to." So through this fund we go with our dear members beyond the grave and share our prayers and sympathy with those who are ill. This fund was maintained by voluntary contributions from the members until last fall a year ago, when through action of the Board the proceeds derived from the sale of candy at our annual party was devoted to it, and in addition a card party was given by the members for its maintenance, this being held through the kindness of Mrs. Rogers at her home. Ever since its establishment the fund has been in the custodianship of Mrs. Joseph M. Stanley, who has faithfully and promptly remembered each member crossing the Divide or to whom sickness has come. It is a bond of friendly interest among the members and a fitting means of remembering them in trial.

One of the most stirring and interesting events in the history of the College was the conferring of the degree of Doctor of Letters on Queen Elizabeth of Belgium. This took place on the afternoon of October 18, 1919, when she and King Albert and the Duke of Brabant visited this country

after the close of the World War. Our dear late Cardinal Gibbons conferred the degree and in his address spoke of his great pleasure in knowing the Queen and of her model life. An address was made by Bishop Shahan, then Rector of the Catholic University of America, and was responded to by the Queen. Among the distinguished guests present were the Cardinal, the Papal Delegate, Monsignor Bonzana, now Cardinal; Bishops Shahan, O'Connell, and Corrigan; members of the Cabinet, Supreme Court, Senate, and House of Representatives; and the faculties of the University and Trinity College. The Board was present as the guests of the Sisters.

Shortly after this the Board had the pleasure of receiving a call from a delegation of Belgian gentlemen, M. Michel Levie, Ministre d'Etat; M. Armand Julin, Secretaire du Ministre du Travail et du Ravitaillment; and M. Alexandre Delmer, Engenieur Principal au Corps des Mines, Chargé de Cours a l'Universite de Liege. These gentlemen were representatives of their country and came with a view to establishing at Louvain a college for the higher education of women, same to be modeled after Trinity College. Our dear Miss Dorsey addressed them in French on behalf of the Board, and on listening to her words of

welcome and of sympathy and admiration for their bravery during the War they were moved to tears. The Board was amazed at the fluency of Miss Dorsey's address, delivered with all the grace, eloquence, and elegance for which she is noted.

Probably the most interesting event in the history of the Board was the conferring of the degreeof Master of Letters on Mrs. Carter and Miss Dorsey, two American Queens, to use the words of Archbishop Curley. This took place at the commencement June 8, 1926, and was the occasion of great rejoicing.

Many times the Board has gathered together in social intercourse. These occasions were principally as guests of the Sisters after the annual meetings, when delicious refreshments were served. These affairs are a source of real pleasure and are looked forward to with keen anticipation.

On the occasion of the dedication of the Chapel May 13, 1924, the Sisters entertained with an elaborate luncheon, the Board being among the guests.

On November 1924, the twenty-fourth anniversary of the dedication of the College, the Board received Holy Communion in the Chapel at the 7:30 o'clock Mass and after Mass were the guests of the Sisters at breakfast. This was pronounced

the "Perfect Occasion."

On June 13, 1926, the Sunday after the conferring of the degree on Mrs. Carter and Miss Dorsey the Sisters gave them a reception, beautiful and exquisitely appointed, and replete with all the refinement and culture of the convent. The members of the Board and a large company of distinguished guests gathered to meet and greet these two representative Catholic women, so signally and so deservedly honored, and to rejoice with the Sisters in the addition of American royalty to the roster of the college. It was a happy and in every respect a delightful event and one that lives indelibly in the memory of those privileged to be present.

Frequently dear Mrs. Carter gave teas and receptions to the Board, and on the evening of May 26, 1928, the members were her guests at a lecture by Dr. Henry O'Malley, Fish Commissioner, on the fauna and flora of Alaska and its scenic beauties.

Besides these Mrs. Hannan entertained the Board on three occasions at her summer home at Norbeck, and our President, Mrs. Noonan, gave a delightful reception to the Board at her home the past fall.

At the present time the Board has a membership of 90. During the past nineteen years 108 were added to its rolls,

and St. Christopher has borne across the River to eternity 28 of those who walked with us through the fields of our activities for Trinity.

On Sunday afternoon, May 29, 1927, a beautiful chapter was written in the history of the Board. When the Sisters and the members assembled for the services incident to the closing of the meetings for the season most of those present were mystified and all were enraptured by the sweet chimes that accompanied the organ as it responded to the Master's touch. The mystery was explained when Rev. Doctor Kerby read a letter from Mrs. Carter presenting the chimes to the Sisters as her memorial and as a symbol of the harmony that characterized the Board during her years of leadership.

On December 3 last, which was the date of the first meeting of the Board after the date of the anniversary of Mrs. Carter's death, Rev. Doctor Kerby celebrated Mass for her at 7:30 in the Chapel and the members of the Board received Holy Communion at this Mass for the repose of her soul. After the Mass the members were the guests of the Sisters for breakfast, and our President, Mrs. Noonan, gave a most interesting history of this valliant woman.

Her voice is stilled. No more we hear
Her sparkling humor, sprightly cheer;

But comes a cadence sweet and soft
From out the Chapel's organ loft--
Like songs of birds in joyous spring
As to their Lord in praise they sing--
The chimes, a casket filled with gems,
With tuneful, glorious, sacred hymns.
Oh may her voice in heaven ring
In prayerful praise to Him our King,
And may we serve Him and adore
And love Him daily more and more.

Nellie E. Fealy,
Recording Secretary,
Auxiliary Board
of Trinity College.