

*For those who have been faithful, O Lord,
life is not ended, but merely changed.*

August 15, 1983

Dear Sisters,

During Focus '83 Sister Clarasine was called to the side of her dying sister, Sister Aurelia. She was greeted with the words, "You have been so good to me." As Sister Aurelia's condition weakened, many of the Sisters came to pray with her and say good-bye in their hearts to a good friend and community member of long-standing. She struggled for three days before closing her eyes for the last time, although she was alert to sounds until near the end of her struggles. Sister Clarasine was at her side almost constantly those three days, and shortly before Sister Aurelia offered her final "fiat," her sister, Agnes, and her niece, Kathy, arrived from the east. Also praying with her was Bishop Jude Prost, OFM, from Brazil, who happened to be visiting at the Home.

Lawrence and Mary Bahleda named the baby girl God gave them after her mother, so another Mary entered the family on May 7, 1907. Sixteen years later she departed her home state of Pennsylvania and came to the Motherhouse in Joliet to begin her life as a Sister of St. Francis. She persevered in that rich and full life, missing her Diamond Jubilee by just three years.

During all her active years Sister Aurelia was involved in the service of God's children through her classroom teaching and administration of some of the Congregation elementary schools. Most of those years found her busy in the schools of Illinois, yet she ventured into both Ohio and Wisconsin for a few years. Sister Aurelia loved her ministry the schools. She was an inventive, creative, enthusiastic teacher, maintaining strong discipline in her classroom, but at the same time assuring her students of her love and interest in their growth. Many of her students remember her for her progressive techniques and at this time in their lives appreciate all she did to promote their educational advancement.

Sister Aurelia is remembered with fondness and love by her friends and classmates. She was considered a good friend--a person who could receive and keep a confidence, who was never too busy for an enriching chat, and who was willing to share herself with those she knew well, even though she was a very private person at heart. During her more active years she was usually too busy to do needlecraft projects, but she enjoyed them at Our Lady of Angels as helpful therapy for her arthritic hands.

Sister Aurelia will leave a void in the lives of her family--her sisters, Sister Clarasine and Agnes (Mrs. George) Letavish, her brother, Joseph, and her many nieces, nephews and cousins--as well as her friends and classmates, and all the Sisters with whom she shared community at OLA these past nine years. May Mary, to whom she prayed each day, and her sister, Sister Theotone, who also died on this feast of Mary, welcome Sister Aurelia into the heavenly home prepared for her from all eternity.

Sincerely in Christ,

THE GOVERNING BOARD



SISTER M. AURELIA BAHLEDA, OSF (MARY) 576

Parents: Lawrence and Mary (Novak) Bahleda
Birthdate: May 7, 1907, in Spangler, PA
Died: Monday, August 15, 1983, at 2:45 p.m. at Our Lady
of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL
Age: 76 years old; in religious life 59 years

Postulancy: December 29, 1923
Novitiate: August 12, 1924
First Profession: August 13, 1926
Final Profession: August 13, 1929
Golden Jubilee: June, 1976



Ministry:
1925-26 St. John, Joliet, IL, Grade 3
1926-28 Assumption, Chicago, IL, Grades 3, 4
1928-32 St. Stephen, Streator, IL, Grade 7
1932-33 St. Stephen, Streator, IL, Grade 7
Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH, Grade 6
1933-34 Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH, Grade 6
1934-45 St. John, Joliet, IL, Grades 7, 8
1945-47 St. Michael, Sigel, IL, Grades 5, 6, 7, 8
1947-48 Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH, Grade 7
St. Stephen, Streator, IL, Grade 7
1948-51 St. Stephen, Streator, IL, Grade 7
1951-53 St. John, Joliet, IL, Grade 6
1953-55 St. Joseph, Freeport, IL, Grades 5, 6, 7
1955-57 St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Grades 5, 6
1957-58 Holy Family, Bayfield, WI, Superior and Principal,
Grades 6, 7, 8
1958-61 St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Grade 8
1961-64 Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH, Grade 8
1964-65 Sacred Heart, Chicago, IL, Superior, Principal,
Grades 7, 8
1965-66 St. Mary, Mount Vernon, IL, Grades 6, 7
1966-68 Annunciation, Aurora, IL, Grade 7
1968-70 St. Stephen, Streator, IL, Grades 4, 5
1970-71 St. Joseph, Elgin, IL, Grade 4
1971-72 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL,
Activities Program
1972-74 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Tutor
1974-83 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Tuesday, August 16, 1983, 2 to 7 p.m. at Our Lady
of Angels Retirement Home
Prayer Service: Tuesday, August 16, 1983, 3:30 p.m.
Liturgy: Tuesday, August 16, 1983, 7:00 p.m.
Burial Services: Wednesday, August 17, 1983, at 9:30 a.m. from Our
Lady of Angels to Resurrection Cemetery, Lockport