

For those who have been faithful, O Lord,

July 8, 1986

Life is not ended, but merely changed.

Dear Sisters and Associates,

After a long, happy life, Sister Modesta Bahovec died quickly and quietly in the care of her nurses at Our Lady of Angels. In the latter years of her life she lost her memory, but the loving person that she always was and the free spirit that was hers continued to shine through. In her deep, mellow voice she would say to those who cared for her, "I love you so much". She seemed to think of her mother often, would talk about her and would want to go to see her.

In 1972, at the age of 78, Sister Modesta took a European trip and returned to visit her birthplace, Ljubljana, Krain, Austria (now Yugoslavia). While she traveled she kept a diary. Some quotes from that diary help us recall her character. While in Fatima: she says, "I bought a candle and held it during Mass remembering all of you--my relatives, and our community that we stay together". In Rome: "There was music, dancing and singing". At Lourdes: "I remembered all of you again and again." When she parted from the tour group to go to Ljubljana: "Everything is so built up and I didn't recognize anything. Not even the convent, not my school. The church is still beautiful.... I went to the church where I was baptized.... My mother made a little mistake in the date.... I am four days older than I said I was.... I have so many relatives here that the city is simply crawling with them.... For not knowing the language I think I am doing pretty well by myself." Her relatives were amazed that she remembered so much after 70 years!

At the age of eight, Aloysia Anna (Louise) Bahovec came to the United States with her parents and became a citizen when her father was naturalized on October 20, 1904. It was at the age of 24 that she entered the Joliet Franciscans, the community she came to know through going to school at St. Francis on 12th Street in Chicago.

We know little of Sister Modesta's adult life before she entered the congregation. She did work as a seamstress and she lived in Kansas City, Missouri for a time. As a professed sister, Sister Modesta spent all her years in ministry as a teacher, first in elementary school and then in high school. Her students remember her as a loving and caring person. She really enjoyed sewing and teaching others how to sew. Those who lived with her in Chicago remember that she really knew her way around and would enjoy spending Saturdays going to her favorite shops downtown. Rosary-making was another of her talents and she made them with lovely aurora borealis beads. Those who were close to her called her "Moddie". She spent most of her retirement years continuing on her projects of sewing or crocheting.

We extend our sympathy to all the sisters and friends she knew and loved. We remember her three brothers who survive her: Fred Bahovec, Albert Bayer and Ted Bayer. We also extend sympathy to the other surviving relatives, especially her many nieces and nephews.

Moddie's words to us, re-echoing some of her own, would be: "I remembered all of you again and again. Wherever you look, the scenery is breathtaking. I thank God that I am really home. I love you so much." We love you too.

Sincerely,

The Governing Board



610 SISTER M. MODESTA BAHOVEC (ALOYSIA)

Born: June 16, 1894
Parents: Frank & Gertrude (Birtic) Bahovec
Postulancy: September 17, 1918
Novitiate: August 12, 1919
First Profession: August 12, 1921
Final Profession: August 12, 1924
Age: 92 years, in religious life 65 years



Ministry:

1921 - 1930 St. Joseph, Joliet, Il. Teacher
1930 - 1931 Sacred Heart, Englewood, Il. Teacher
1931 - 1932 Central Catholic High, Johnstown, Pa. Teacher
1932 - 1939 St. Mary, Columbus, O., Teacher
1939 - 1942 St. Joseph, Joliet, Il., Superior & Principal
1942 - 1946 St. Mary, Columbus, O., Teacher
1946 - 1959 St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, Il., Teacher
1959 - 1960 St. Mary, Columbus, O., Teacher
1960 - 1963 St. Procop High School, Cleveland, Ohio, Teacher
1963 - 1969 SS. Peter & Paul High School, Chicago, Il., Teacher
1969 - 1976 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, Il., Teacher
1976 - 1977 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, Il., Seamstress
1977 - 1986 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, Il., Retired

Died: Sunday, July 6, 1986 at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, Illinois.

Wake: Tuesday, July 8, 1986, 2 - 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home.

Mass of Resurrection: Tuesday, July 8, 1986, 7 p.m.

Burial: Procession will leave Our Lady of Angels on Wednesday July 9, 1986 at 9 A.M. for burial services and interment at St. Joseph's Cemetery, Joliet, Illinois

