

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

May 5, 1988

Dear Sisters and Associates,

As we continue to rejoice in the many occasions for celebration during this blessed season, we are once again challenged by the mystery of death. Surely, anyone who knew Sister Robertine Bluth well realizes that this "going home", too, is reason to celebrate - she would encourage that. Her last years were years of reflection, prayer and pain patiently endured - and she was ready.

Sister Robertine ministered in the field of education for over 40 years, as either teacher or administrator. She initiated her career in Columbus, Ohio teaching history, bookkeeping and shorthand at St. Mary's High School. From 1942 to 1958 she served at Marybrook Academy in Maumee, Ohio where she taught, did the bookkeeping, was principal and worked in guidance. In 1958 she came to St. Francis Academy where she served until 1980.

Sister Robertine's first association with the Academy was in 1926 when she entered as a freshman student. Before she finished high school her mother died. To help ease the financial burdens of the family in that depression era, she left the Academy in her junior year and took an accounting position with a local automobile dealer. Having been an accounting student at the Academy, she was well equipped by nature and by grace to meet the challenges of this new marketplace. She quickly displayed her talent for organization and her accounting ability and was awarded the General Motors Leadership ring, an award of distinction in the automotive field. She was encouraged to become a CPA but as she later remarked, "all I wanted was to become an OSF."

Sister realized the beginning of that dream when she entered the convent in 1935. Here, as a postulant, she completed her senior year. She continued her education at the College of St. Francis, earned a master's degree in education from Loyola University and attended the Notre Dame Business Administration School.

After her 16 years at Marybrook Sister Robertine once again entered the halls of St. Francis Academy in September of 1958, this time as a teacher of religion, algebra, accounting, office practice and typing. In 1960, she assumed the responsibility of business manager, a position she held until her retirement in 1980.

In 1981 Sister Robertine was chosen as that year's addition to the St. Francis Academy Hall of Fame. Her selection, by a combined Alumnae and Parent Board committee was based on her "outstanding contributions to St. Francis and the Joliet community as as alumna, teacher and outstanding business manager."

We give thanks for the steps of the journey that Sister Robertine has walked among us and celebrate with gratitude the many ways in which she touched our living and being.

We, her sisters, who have lived with her and loved her, extend our deep sympathy to her sisters Lucille, Agnes, Antoinette and Catherine and to her many nieces and nephews. We join them in thanking God for the gift that Sister Robertine has been to all of us.

Sincerely,

The Governing Board



SISTER M. ROBERTINE BLUTH, O.S.F. (Irene)



Born: September 1, 1912
 Parents: George J. and Mary Violet (Falcus) Bluth
 Postulancy: September 8, 1935
 Novitiate: August 12, 1936
 First Profession: August 12, 1938
 Final Profession: August 12, 1941
 Died: Tuesday, May 3, 1988 at 4:00 a.m. at
 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home

Ministry:

1938 - 1940 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Student
 1940 - 1942 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Junior Home Room, Bookkeeping, History
 and Shorthand
 1942 - 1958 Marybrook Academy, Maumee, OH, Religion, Mathematics, History,
 Bookkeeping, Superior and Principal
 1958 - 1980 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, Mathematics and Bookkeeping,
 Bookkeeper for SFA, Business Officer
 1980 - 1983 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, Retired
 1983 - 1988 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Thursday, May 5, 1988 from 2 - 7 p.m. with prayer service
 at 4:15 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Thursday, May 5, 1988 at 7 p.m.

Burial: Friday, May 6, 1988 from OLA at 9 a.m. to
 Resurrection Cemetery

Survived by sisters, Lucille Bluth, Agnes Bluth, Antoinette Murphy, and
 Catherine Caracello