

SISTER M. VERDIANA BRABAND O.S.F. (Elizabeth) 698

Born: March 20, 1907 in Chicago, Illinois
Parents: Francis and Elizabeth (Schaefer) Braband
Postulancy: September 8, 1923
Novitiate: August 12, 1924
First Profession: August 12, 1926
Final Profession: August 12, 1929
Died: Sunday, March 1, 1992 at 12:05 a.m. at
Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet



Ministry:

1926 - 1929 Immaculate Conception, Columbus, OH, Grades 4, 5, & 6
1929 - 1940 St. Raymond, Joliet, IL, Grades 4, 5 & 6
1940 - 1948 Marybrook Academy, Maumee, OH, Grades 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and
Religion, English and Business Training in High School
1948 - 1961 St. Raymond, Joliet, IL, Superior and Principal
1961 - 1990 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL,
Assistant Administrator
1990 - 1992 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Wednesday, March 4, 1992 from 2:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Prayer Service at 4:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Angels, Joliet

Mass of Christian Burial: Wednesday, March 4, 1992 at 7:30 p.m.

Burial: Thursday, March 5, at 10:00 a.m. at Resurrection Cemetery

**Survived by her brother, Francis, nieces, nephews, grandnieces and
grandnephews**

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

On March 1, 1992, at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, our Sister Verdiana Braband was born to life eternal. She met Sister Death with that same spirit of faith and courage that characterized her life.

Elsie was born on March 20, 1907, in Chicago, IL, to Elsie and Francis Braband. She was the second oldest, the only girl, in a family of six children. Raised with five boys she shared their adventures and love of sports, yet had a special role as a "little mother." Today she is survived by her dear brother Francis, and generations of nieces and nephews.

Family was always important for Sister Verdiana. She loved her family dearly, and shared through the years in their joys and sorrows. She was an influential and uniting force in the Braband clan. "Auntie Sis" as she was affectionately called, will be dearly missed by her family.

She loved her religious family too. Sister Verdiana met our Sisters when she was a student at St. Clement's Commercial High School in Chicago, IL. When she was sixteen she became a postulant, and lived to celebrate her Diamond Jubilee of sixty years in 1986. Throughout her years in religious life, she remained open and willing to respond to new tasks whenever her Congregation called her.

There is a saying that "everyone in Joliet knows Sister Verdiana", and the words come close to reality. She served the people of Joliet for fifty-six of her sixty-five years in active ministry. She also taught at Immaculate Conception School in Columbus, Ohio and at Marybrook Academy in Maumee, Ohio.

It was at St. Raymond's School in Joliet that Sister Verdiana spent twenty-four years, as teacher (1929-1940) and as principal (1948-1961). She taught generations of students, many of whom have kept contact with her through the years. One of her students wrote about the great influence she was in her life..."stern, but kind...everywhere you looked there she was. She touched our hearts."

When she left St. Raymond's in 1961, Msgr. Hoover spoke of her as a "remarkable nun." "The fireman's daughter has grown dear to our hearts." When Joliet became a new diocese and St. Raymond's a cathedral, she helped it happen. And in return, Sister Verdiana stated how she would always be a "Raymondite"!



In 1961 our Congregation called Sister Verdiana to a new venture, to be one of the "founding mothers" of Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home. When we recall the challenge that was hers, we remember the Constitutions' words about our foundress, Mother Alfred Moes:

**...with ingenuity, for the sake of those in need,
she created something where there had been nothing...**

Sister Verdiana entered the lives of the elderly and sick who became residents at Our Lady of Angels, and helped create a home for them. She helped establish the excellent retirement home we claim today. As personnel director she instinctively knew the right people to hire, and filled the home with dedicated employees. Little wonder that in 1990, the Board of Directors of Our Lady of Angels honored her with the prestigious Borromeo Award for outstanding dedication and service to Our Lady of Angels. We, as a Congregation, are forever grateful to her.

She formally retired from Our Lady of Angels Administration in 1990, but remained active until her last days. She helped wherever she could at Our Lady of Angels, and became very active in volunteer work with the Cancer Society.

As her body gradually weakened, she remained cheerful. She endured valiantly her suffering. She, who sat and prayed at the bedsides of hundreds of dying residents at Our Lady of Angels, now experienced that same kind of consolation from those who watched with her, and prayed her into eternity.

Our sister, Sister Verdiana, will remain very alive in our memories. We will remember her as a woman who could be a stern and exacting administrator, yet a tenderhearted and compassionate friend. Easily moved to tears, she had the gift of entering into others suffering in a way they knew she understood and shared with them. One Sister said, "she was ever young in spirit, solid as a rock."

Sister Verdiana, we thank you for your sixty-five years as our Sister. You leave us a legacy of a woman eager to respond generously whenever there was a need, a woman living by faith, and showing that faith in solid dedication and love for all. May you now enjoy God's response to the way you lived "all the days of your life." May you experience Love Everlasting forever and ever. Amen! Alleluia!