

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

June 18, 1982

Dear Sisters,

In the Psalms (90) we read: "Our life lasts for seventy years, eighty with good health." Although Sister Wilfreda Bunda suffered from ill health most of her life, she far outlived the expectations of the psalmist, being in her ninetieth year at the time of her death, Thursday, June 17, 1982.

She died on the eve of the Feast of the Sacred Heart at 11:25 p.m. The spontaneous reaction when the Sisters first learned of her death concerned the appropriateness of this moment. During her life she spent thirty-three years ministering to the children of Sacred Heart Parish, Englewood. The Sacred Heart came to take her to eternity in celebration of His feast--a day she had loved during her years of teaching at the parish dedicated to His Name.

Sister Wilfreda was born to Stephen and Matilda Bunda in Johnstown, PA, on August 24, 1892. For several years her ill health prevented her entering the Congregation, but at last on December 31, 1915 she was permitted to become a postulant. Six years later she made her final vows on August 12, 1921 and in June, 1978 celebrated her Diamond Jubilee of religious profession.

Again due to ill health, she served the Sisters by cooking, doing church work and other household duties for the first ten years of her ministry as a Sister of St. Francis. During that time she assisted the Sisters in the classroom as an aide and gradually became enamored of the life of a teacher. Commencing her years as a teacher in 1927 at Sacred Heart, Englewood, she continued for the next 42 years in kindergarten or second grade. She loved the children, was exceptionally responsive to their needs and those of their parents, so that when the kindergarten was closing at Sacred Heart in 1950 Fr. Wunder, the pastor, wrote in the bulletin: "I cannot permit the occasion to go by without saying a sincere word of gratitude to our kindergarten teacher for over a generation--our good Sister Wilfreda. She has been a second mother to so many of our people, both adults and children, that to think of the kindergarten is to think of Sr. Wilfreda, its teacher. I know that they (parents and children) will be forever grateful to her."

During the evening years of her life Sister Wilfreda lived at the Motherhouse from 1969-1978, moving to Our Lady of Angels for the last four years. She wanted to tutor while semi-retired, but her health prevented this work. She had to content herself with small odd jobs like folding laundry and cutting stamps.

We offer our sympathy to her sister, Mrs. Ernesta Alt, of Blairsville, PA, and her brother, Stephen, of Johnstown, PA, as well as to her nieces. The wake for Sister Wilfreda will be on Sunday, June 20 from 2-7 p.m. at Our Lady of Angels, with a prayer service at 3:30 p.m. That evening at 7 p.m. the Mass of Resurrection will be offered with Rev. Lawrence Springer as principal concelebrant and Rev. Bernard Guirsch, homilist. Burial will be at Resurrection Cemetery, Lockport, with the funeral cortege leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:30 a.m. Monday, June 21.

Sister Wilfreda was seldom seen without a smile on her face. May eternity be her reward for the friendliness with which she faced life on earth.

Sincerely,





VITAE of Sister M. Wilfreda Bunda, OSF (Cecilia) 564

Born: August 24, 1892, in Johnstown, PA
Parents: Stephen and Matilda (Sekerak) Bunda

Postulancy: December 31, 1915
Novitiate: August 12, 1916
First Profession: August 12, 1918
Final Profession: August 12, 1921
Diamond Jubilee: June, 1978

Ministry:

1917-1927: Domestic Work

- 1917-18: St. Clement, Chicago, IL
- 1918-19: St. Pascal, Chicago, IL
- 1919-20: Immaculate Conception, Kankakee, IL
- 1920-22: St. Mary, Rock Island, IL
- 1922-23: St. Denis, Benton, MO
- 1923-25: St. Boniface, Chicago, IL
- 1925-26: St. Joseph, Freeport, IL; Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH
- 1926-27: Motherhouse (convalescing); St. Joseph, Freeport, IL

1927-1969: Teaching

- 1927-56: Sacred Heart, Chicago, IL (Englewood)
Kindergarten 23 years; Grade 2 for 6 years
- 1956-59: St. Boniface, Chicago, IL, Grade 2
- 1959-63: Sacred Heart, Englewood, Grade 2
- 1963-64: St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL, Grade 2
- 1964-69: Divine Savior, Norridge, IL, Grade 2

1969-1982: Semi-retired/Retired

- 1969-78: Motherhouse, Joliet, IL
- 1978-82: Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL

Died: Thursday, June 17, 1982
St. Joseph Hospital, Joliet, IL

Wake: Sunday, June 20, 1982, from 2 to 7 p.m.
Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet

Prayer Service: June 20 at 3:30 p.m.

Mass: June 20 at 7:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Angels Chapel

Burial Services: Resurrection Cemetery, Lockport, IL
Monday, June 21, 1982
9:30 a.m. from Our Lady of Angels