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

December 28, 1977

Dear Sisters,

Today, Dec. 28, 1977, at 9:45 a.m., the Lord came for Sister M. Rosaria Busser, who had been longing for Him throughout her long stay in the infirmary of Our Lady of Angels. She was in the 89th year of her life and the 57th year of her religious life.

Sister Rosaria was born on Nov. 2, 1889, to Frank and Elizabeth Busser, in Cleveland, Ohio. Two days later, she and her twin sister were baptized in Holy Trinity Church and given the names of Mary and Anna, respectively. Both girls entered our Congregation on Sept. 2, 1919. The Feast of St. Clare, Aug. 12, was chosen for their Reception in 1920, their First Profession in 1922, and their Perpetual Profession in 1925.

Although the two sisters did celebrate their silver jubilee together in 1947, only Sister Rosaria lived to see her golden jubilee in 1972. Sister Josita died in 1966. Sister Rosaria was able later to reflect: ". . . I stood at Sister Josita's bedside and saw she was dying and had to go alone. That was very hard. I made an act of resignation then and there that I would take as many years as He wanted me to live." She was to live eleven more years after the death of her sister who had been inseparable from her in spirit.

To elementary education, Sister Rosaria gave forty-four years of tireless service — from 1921 until her retirement in 1965. Her years of teaching included the following missions: St. John the Baptist, Joliet; St. Francis de Sales and Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chicago; St. Mary and Corpus Christi, Columbus. She and her sister served together on the teaching staff of Our Lady of Guadalupe for the last fifteen years of their careers — 1950 to 1965.

Sister Rosaria is survived by two nieces, Sister Valerian, S.SP.S., Techny; Mrs. John Kurth, of Fairview Drive, Ohio; as well as a nephew, Joseph Busser, of Cleveland. We offer them our deep sympathy. We and they can be consoled in our loss by remembering the long service of their two aunts who so faithfully dedicated themselves to the ideals of our Franciscan Congregation.

The wake for Sister Rosaria will be at Our Lady of Angels on Thursday, Dec. 29, from 2 to 9 p.m., a prayer service will be conducted at 3:30 p.m. On Friday morning, Dec. 30, at 10 o'clock in the chapel of Our Lady of Angels, the Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated by Reverend James Healy, chaplain. Burial will follow at Resurrection Cemetery, Lockport.

Those who knew Sister Rosaria may well consider it fitting that she should die on the Feast of the Holy Innocents and be buried on the Feast of the Holy Family. Her simplicity and humility were prominent in her character. As all of us look forward to the New Year that is fast approaching, we rejoice with Sister Rosaria who enters this day the New Beginning that is Eternal Life. May she be welcomed into the triumphant Family of God.

Devotedly in Christ,

THE GOVERNING BOARD

