

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

June 27, 1981

Dear Sisters,

Sister Helen Engels had been failing in health for a couple of weeks, but she struggled for life until the Lord called her to Himself at 6:55 p.m. Friday, June 26. Her sister, Mrs. Jennie Hool, a resident of OLA, held her hand during the last hour of her life and participated in the prayers uttered by the many Sisters gathered as a spiritual support to Sister Helen on her last journey.

Sister Helen entered this life on December 13, 1896 in Essex, IL, the daughter of Henry and Helen Engels. She responded to the call of her Lord to enter religious life, arriving at the postulancy on January 15, 1914. She made her final vows six years later, living 66 years in religious life and dedicated during most of those years to the training of primary aged children. For fifty years she provided an excellent primary education for children in three states--Illinois, Ohio and Wisconsin--at the following schools. In Illinois she taught at St. Michael, Sigel; St. Raymond, Joliet; St. Francis de Sales, Chicago; St. Joseph, Manhattan; St. Mary, Des Plaines; and St. Rita, Aurora. For one year she served at Holy Family School, Bayfield, WI. She taught three years at St. Peter, Mansfield, and it is notable that she ministered to the children and the people of Immaculate Conception Parish in Toledo for twenty-nine years. In 1965 she retired at Our Lady of Angels and resided there until her death.

According to her contemporaries, Sister Helen was a "woman ahead of her times." She entered into the lives of the children whom she taught in a personal and loving manner. They were the recipients of a splendid education, not only in the three R's but in a whole attitude toward life. By her example Sister Helen taught them the meaning of sensitivity toward the suffering. She "wore out the carpet" of the neighborhood funeral parlors visiting the parishioners who had lost loved ones. Literally she mourned and suffered with the bereaved. And the poor and oppressed were her special friends. Long before clothing drives and food baskets were common, she was gathering the necessities of life for the needy of the parishes where she served. She was a woman who loved life herself and tried in every way to share this enthusiasm with others.

As Sister Helen takes her rightful place in heaven, we extend our sympathy to her relatives and friends, especially her sister, Jennie, and her nieces and nephews. The wake for Sister Helen will be Monday, June 29 from 2 to 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Angels. At 4 p.m. on that day there will be a prayer service and at 7 p.m. the Mass of Resurrection in the chapel. Burial services will take place on Tuesday, June 30 at 9:30 a.m. from Our Lady of Angels to Resurrection Cemetery.

Sister Helen was light-hearted in her approach to life in this world, enjoying the good things that God provided for His children. With this same zest she must be enjoying the happiness of eternity. Her life was the fulfillment of the words, "What you have done to one of these, my least ones, you have done to Me." She is now hearing the words of her Lord: "Enter now into the glory of the Lord, prepared for you from all eternity."

Sincerely yours in Christ,

THE GOVERNING BOARD

