

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

January 7, 1987

Dear Sisters and Associates,

Sister Catherine Fitzgerald was born in Chicago and entered the Joliet Franciscans from Sacred Heart, Englewood. She received her Bachelor's degree from the College of St. Francis and also her Master's degree when she studied theology in the Seraphic Institute held there.

Her years of ministry were spent in teaching in the primary grades and teaching music. She had a special affection for her first grade students.

In 1981 when Sister Catherine suffered a stroke she entered the infirmary at Our Lady of Angels. The loving care she received as a patient on C2 is a testimony to all those who ministered to her. She was in much pain through this illness, and the staff at Our Lady of Angels searched for ways to lift her spirits. Sister Lillian Ujka discovered her pleasure in taking a shopping trip now and then. Shortly before Christmas, Sister Catherine and another Sister went with two nurse aides to Fox Valley on a trip to shop and see Christmas decorations. She returned with such joyful spirits: they had stopped for pizza and coke - her first coke!

"Special ministry" has been Sister Catherine's official Congregation assignment during her years as a resident at OLA. Her current special ministry has been to pray for the Affiliate Community. She took seriously her ministry to pray for the affiliates and for new life in the Congregation.

January 5th, the day Sister Catherine died, was the day between this year's official celebration of Epiphany and the traditional date. Epiphany was a great day of celebration for the Fitzgeralds; for Sister Catherine, her sister, Peg, and their parents. It was a bigger celebration than Christmas! Catherine knew that Peg was coming to carry on the family tradition and they would celebrate together for one last time. Peg did come to celebrate - she came to celebrate Catherine's epiphany - the great day when God revealed himself to her - when she received the glimpse beyond this world into the meaning of life - and God welcomed her.

To Peg Fitzgerald, Sister Catherine's sister; to her classmates who celebrated their golden jubilee in 1984; and to all her Sisters in community and her friends who will miss her we extend sympathy and love.

When Sister Catherine died, she received many of her wishes. One wish was that she remain alert until she died. She communicated with those at her side until minutes before death. Although she was in pain she was peaceful and ready to die. She asked for forgiveness, saying, "I'm sorry." In the name of all those she asked it, we responded to her and told her she was forgiven for whatever needed forgiving. In her letter of May 9, 1937 to Mother Thomasine requesting perpetual profession, Sr. Catherine expressed that what she hoped to achieve by the way she lived was God's response saying, "Well done my good and faithful servant." Those of us who were in her room could almost hear those words as we saw a beautiful peacefulness on her face. The words from the book of Revelations came alive, "Then I saw new heavens and a new earth... 'God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, crying out or pain, for the former world has passed away.'" Rev. 21: 1,4



SISTER CATHERINE FITZGERALD (BRENDAN)

Born: August 26, 1912  
 Parents: Patrick and Mary (Finneral) Fitzgerald  
 Postulancy: September 8, 1931  
 Novitiate: August 12, 1932  
 First Profession: August 12, 1934  
 Final Profession: August 12, 1937  
 Died: Monday, January 5, 1987 at 2:38 p.m. at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home



Ministry:

- 1934 - 1935 St. Francis Preparatory, Joliet, IL, Student at College of St. Francis  
March 1935, Our Lady of Mercy, Granville, OH, Grades 4,5,6
- 1935 - 1941 Immaculate Conception, Columbus, OH, Grades 2, 3, 4
- 1941 - 1943 Our Lady of Mercy, Granville, OH Music Teacher & Organist
- 1943 - 1944 St. Mary Magdalene, Columbus, OH, Music, Organist
- 1944 - 1945 St. Francis Preparatory, Joliet, IL, Music, Organist
- 1945 - 1946 St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL, Grade 3
- 1946 - 1947 St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL, Music Teacher
- 1947 - 1949 St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Kindergarten
- 1949 - 1951 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Kindergarten, Grades 1 & 2
- 1951 - 1957 St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Grades 1, 2
- 1957 - 1958 Sacred Heart, Englewood, IL, Grade 1
- 1958 - 1962 St. Bernard, Joliet, IL, Grade 2
- 1962 - 1964 Annunciation, Aurora, IL, Grade 1
- 1964 - 1966 St. Joseph, Freeport, IL, Grade 1
- 1966 - 1968 St. Mary, Des Plaines, IL, Grade 2
- 1968 - 1971 St. Ludmilla, Chicago, IL, Grades 2 & 4
- 1971 - 1976 St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Office Work, Music
- 1976 - 1981 St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL, Private Music Lessons
- 1981 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Retired  
October - Our Lady of Angels
- 1981 - 1987 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Wednesday, January 7, 1987 from 2 - 7 p.m. with prayer service at 4:15 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Wednesday, January 7, 1987 at 7 p.m.

Burial: Thursday, January 8, 1987 at 9 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery

Survived by sister, Margaret Fitzgerald, of Chicago, Illinois