

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

April 8, 1984

Dear Sisters,

How can one capture in a few words the ability of Sister Cyrinus Flaska to impact so forcefully the lives of those who knew her? Though diminutive in size, she nevertheless was able to exert great influence. In conversation her quick wit delighted everyone, while those in trouble experienced the calming strength of her deep and fearless faith. She was a sign to her world that "the beauty of the King's daughter is from within."

Never was this great inner strength more apparent than during these past two years when she came face to face with the specter of death. Just a year beyond Medicare age she did not wish to be confronted with the stages of death and dying except in a theoretical manner. But she submitted to the Will of the Lord, living these past two years with the knowledge that He was asking the ultimate sacrifice of her--probably in the near future. That day of final submission arrived at 5:15 p.m. on Saturday, April 7. With a soft sigh her robust spirit departed her disease-ridden body.

During these hours since her death, her Franciscan Sisters, her relatives, and her friends have been reminiscing--telling the story of her life. One remembers the fun-loving young woman who entered the Congregation fifty years ago. Another remarks on the excellent teacher who was responsible for the educational training of many math and science students during her twenty years in a formal classroom. To others she was a superior, novice directress or Sister in community. Many ministered with her as social worker or pastoral assistant. Most recently she is remembered by the residents of Our Lady of Angels whom she served as Social Service Director. Even in her wheelchair she visited the men and women of Our Lady of Angels until her lack of strength prevented this service. Each person has a treasury of memories--the heritage Sister Cyrinus left to her friends. Some tell stories of her witty conversation. Others speak of her rich fudge, her excitement at winning a game of cribbage, or her unique insights into the problems of the day, be they national or Congregational in nature.

She died with the same dignity that ennobled her living days. During this past week, with her strength visibly lessened each day, she retreated more and more into the world where she and her Lord were alone. This has been the world where she had learned the values of faith and love and respect for each person during her active days. Although she greeted her visitors during her last days on earth, she soon told them that she wanted to be alone with her Lord. Her wishes were respected. She spent most of those days in pain, but also in union with Jesus. He is sharing with her now the glory of His Resurrection.

We offer our sympathy to her family, Sister Anne, Mildred Tylka, Irene Rose, and Frank Flaska, as well as to her nieces, nephews and cousins. Many years ago, as she was entering into the renewal efforts of our Congregation following the mandate of Vatican II, Sister Cyrinus wrote:

"The religious who lives out the theology of the religious vocation finds freedom in acting according to the mind of the Church. The inevitable mystery of the Cross begins to shine forth more frequently as the Paschal Cross. The Risen Christ is her Spouse who enlightens, guides, strengthens and consoles her in all her efforts."

May this Risen Christ grant her the rewards of her labors, and lighten the grief experienced by those whom she leaves behind in this world.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
The Governing Board



**SISTER M. CYRINUS FLASKA, OSF (MARY)**

Born: August 5, 1916 in Chicago, IL  
 Parents: John and Maria (Turcan) Flaska  
 Parish: Sacred Heart (Huron Street)

Postulancy: September 8, 1934  
 Novitiate: August 12, 1935  
 First Profession: August 12, 1937  
 Final Profession: August 12, 1940



Ministry:  
 1937-38 St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Grade 4  
 Jan. '38 SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL, Grade 5  
 1938-39 St. Francis Preparatory, Joliet, IL, Student  
 at the College of St. Francis  
 1939-55 St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL, High School Teacher  
 1955-57 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, High School Teacher  
 1957-58 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, High School Teacher  
 1958-60 Marybrook Academy, Maumee, OH, Superior, Principal  
 1960-67 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Novice Directress  
 1967-68 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, Superior  
 1968-76 Catholic Charities of Toledo, OH, Social Worker  
 1976-81 Holy Family, Bayfield, WI, Parish Minister  
 1981-84 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL,  
 Social Service Director

Died: Saturday, April 7, 1984, at 5:15 p.m.  
 at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet  
 Age: 67 years old, in religious life 48 years

Wake: Monday, April 9, 1984, 2-7 p.m.  
 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home

Prayer Service: Monday, April 9, 1984, 3:30 p.m.

Mass of Resurrection: Monday, April 9, 1984, 7:00 p.m.

Burial Services: Tuesday, April 10, 1984, 9:30 a.m. from Our Lady  
 of Angels to Resurrection Cemetery, Lockport