

*For those who have been faithful, O Lord,*

*life is not ended, but merely changed.*

June 22, 1982

Dear Sisters,

Sunday afternoon, June 20, Sister Rosella Girard's room at OLA was filled with Sisters as Fr. Loughran anointed her and gave her Holy Communion. She was fully alert and prayed with the assembled group of her Sisters. This touching ceremony was the final phase of her journey to her heavenly home. She died at 11:35 a.m. Monday, June 21.

Sister Rosella enjoyed a long life in the Congregation, extending from 1913, the date of her entrance into the postulancy, until the day she returned home to heaven, in the 68th year of her religious life. Every minute of her life was vibrant with the sheer joy of living, as well as with a multitude of different activities. She taught every grade from kindergarten to eighth, was both superior and principal in many convents/schools, performed domestic work for one year, and in her "retirement years" addressed her concerns to the slow learners in the classroom. She found new life in being a learning disabilities teacher. In her own words it proved a "thrilling second career. The challenge is terrific--and I love it. I am accepted; age is no barrier and I am younger than at 50. I am happy, very much so." She wrote these words at age 82!

Before finally retiring to Our Lady of Angels in 1980, she lived at Guardian Angel Home for several years, commuting to St. Jude's School each day to teach slower and hyperactive children. "They wanted me to go to Our Lady of Angels, but the closest they could come was GAH," she was heard saying upon moving into GAH. She could still work a half day and did so at St. Jude's with her usual energy and exuberance. It was not at all unusual for her to stop a Sister in the hall of the Motherhouse to demonstrate her coordination exercises that she used with the children. She had a "deep interest in and love for the child so handicapped."

Not only was Sister Rosella an expert in child psychology in the classroom, but she could more than hold her own on the playground. The June 9, 1968 Chicago Tribune printed a picture of Sister Rosella with the headline reading: "Nun, 75, Shoots Fine Marbles." One of her students is quoted as saying: "Boy, does she know how to shoot. I didn't know how to shoot, but she showed me how." To the reporter Sister responded: "Every child should know how to play marbles. Why, I learned when I was a little girl." Under her tutelage St. Pascal's won trophies every year in the marble shooting contests.

Sister Rosella was a warm, fun-loving human being who enjoyed every minute of her long life. She proved a friend to countless persons and will be remembered by all of them for her life of service, for her tolerance, understanding, and loyalty, to her Sisters and students alike, and for her love of God and all His creatures. She will be mourned by her numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and by the Sisters with whom she shared so many years of her life.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

THE GOVERNING BOARD





VITAE of Sister M. Rosella Girard, OSF (Frances Girard) 565

Born: September 12, 1892, Columbus, Ohio  
Parents: John R. and Rose (Mussig) Girard

Postulancy: December 29, 1913  
Novitiate: August 12, 1914  
First Profession: August 12, 1916  
Final Profession: August 12, 1919  
Diamond Jubilee: June, 1976

Ministry:

1915-16 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, Kindergarten  
1916-40 St. Pascal, Chicago, IL (taught grades 1-8 in different years; also served as principal and superior for 3 years)  
1940-41 Sacred Heart, Hubbard Woods, IL, grades 7-8; principal and superior  
1941-45 Immaculate Conception, Toledo, OH, grade 8  
1945-51 Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, OH, grades 7-8, principal and superior  
1951-56 St. Mary, Des Plaines, IL, principal and superior  
1956-58 Our Lady of Mercy, Granville, OH, principal and superior  
1958-64 St. John the Baptist, Joliet, IL, principal and superior (also grade 8 for 3 years)  
1964-77 St. Pascal, Chicago, IL (grade 3 for 5 years; domestic work 1 year; learning disabilities teacher for 7 years)  
1977-80 St. Jude, Joliet, IL, learning disabilities teacher  
1980-82 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, retired

Died: Monday, June 21, 1982  
Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL

Wake: Wednesday, June 23, 1982, from 2 to 7 p.m.  
Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL

Prayer Service: June 23 at 4:15 p.m.

Mass of Resurrection: June 23 at 7:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Angels Chapel

Burial Services: Thursday, June 24, 1982

9:30 a.m. from Our Lady of Angels to  
Resurrection Cemetery, Lockport, IL