

For those who have been faithful, O Lord,

Life is not ended, but merely changed.

December 12, 1979

Dear Sisters,

After a personal Advent of many long months during which, with utmost patience despite intense physical suffering, Sister M. Edna Hans waited for the Lord's coming, she received His welcome into Eternal Life this morning at 1:20. She died in the infirmary of Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, which she had entered in February when nursing care was needed.

It is not possible to count the achievements of Sister Edna during the 84 years of her lifetime, nor adequately to delineate a character so well beloved in our Congregation. Born on August 16, 1895, in Mansfield, Ohio, Sister Edna was imbued from her earliest childhood with the loyalty to the Faith given her by her parents, Adam and Elizabeth (Berbo) Hans. Sister Edna loved St. Peter's, the parish in which she was baptized Marguerite, and also confirmed. In September, 1915, she brought the trait of steadfast fidelity to our Congregation, where she became a novice in 1916 and made First Vows in 1918. Her promise of fidelity was sealed at her Final Profession of Vows in 1921. Community-minded throughout her life, she lived to see her Diamond Jubilee celebrated by the Congregation in June, 1978.

Sister Edna was an educator par excellence. Love for this calling exuded from her. Her six decades of education ministry began in 1917 at St. Procopius, Chicago, where she taught grades 3 and 4. The following year she went to St. Raymond's, Joliet, where she was teacher or principal for 21 years. In 1939 she brought her gifts to Immaculate Conception School, Toledo, Ohio, where she was principal until 1948. A call to Congregation leadership brought her to the Motherhouse, and for 12 years she served as both General Councilor and School Supervisor. In 1963 Sister Edna returned to her home parish to become the principal of St. Peter's Grade School until 1970 when she began seven years of service as school bookkeeper. After a two-year retirement at St. Peter's Convent, she came to Our Lady of Angels.

Sisters remember Sister Edna as always a happy person, whose smile made her approachable. They remark about her charity, her willingness to help and encourage others. While demanding excellence of herself, she easily found excuse for the shortcomings of others. Dedicated to fulfilling her religious vows in a spirit of prayerfulness, she also was practical and forward-looking in community living. As an educator, she was extremely innovative. "Sister-Edna's-seat-work" became a common noun in the vocabulary of elementary school teachers, and through this daily drill hundreds of children were prepared to face the challenges of high school. Sister Edna will be missed by many who respected and loved her. Others who never even met her may benefit from the research done upon her death, for it was undertaken as reflecting Sister Edna's generosity and concern for others.

The wake will be at Our Lady of Angels on Friday, December 14, from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. with a special prayer service at 7 p.m. On Saturday, December 15, at 9:30 a.m. a Mass of Resurrection will be celebrated. Reverend Kenneth Hans, of Mansfield, her brother, will be the principal concelebrant. Msgr. Edward C. Dunn, pastor of St. Peter's, Mansfield, will deliver the homily. Burial services and interment will take place at Resurrection Cemetery, Lockport, immediately after the Liturgy.

Besides her priest-brother, Sister Edna is survived by another brother, Harold, of Columbus, Ohio, as well as two sisters, Sister M. Kenneth, OSF, and Alverda Hans, both of Mansfield, Ohio, and by nieces and nephews. To each member of her natural family and to all the Sisters in her religious family, as well as all who knew her, we offer sincere sympathy. May the Promise of Life Everlasting be fulfilled for our dear Sister Edna.

Devotedly in Christ,

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