

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

February 10, 1978

Dear Sisters,

After a long illness patiently borne, Sister Mary Leander Hanus died at the age of 85 this afternoon, February 10, at 3:05. Sister had completed 63 years in religious life.

Born in Chicago on January 25, 1893, to John and Mary Hrdlicka Hanus, she was baptized in St. Procopius Church and given the name Emily. Already as a young girl she nurtured a special devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary, one that would never leave her.

In 1914, shortly before her twenty-first birthday, her girlfriend and she joined the class of postulants of our Congregation. On August 12 of that same year, the two of them received their religious names as they entered the novitiate. Sister Hieronyma, until her death in 1970, remained a dear friend of Sister Leander. First vows were pronounced in 1916, and final vows, in 1919. Both Sisters lived to celebrate their Golden Jubilee in 1966, and Sister Leander was one of the Diamond Jubilarians of 1976.

For fifty-one years Sister Leander taught in grades two, three, and four. Except for three years spent at St. Procop's in Cleveland, Sister devoted her teaching career to the children of Chicago: 15 years at St. Ludmilla's, 23 years at SS. Cyril and Methodius, and 10 years at St. Procopius. One of her third-grade pupils, Father Cyril Nemecek, recalls that he was greatly motivated by her concern for the missions. She was proud of her little pupils and their projects. First Communion days were important events in her life, and she was happy when others shared the joy of those days with her. Sister was known, too, to be especially helpful to children who had difficulty in learning. Her long teaching ministry came to an end when, because of declining health, she retired to Our Lady of Angels in 1967.

We offer our sympathy to Sister Leander's two brothers, Francis and Stanley, and to her two sisters, Mrs. Marie Havel and Mrs. Anita Vondra, as well as to her many nieces and nephews. We invite all her relatives and all the Sisters of the Congregation to join in thanking God for the long, dedicated life of Sister Leander.

The wake for Sister Leander will be held at Our Lady of Angels on Sunday, February 12, from 2 to 7 p.m., with a special Scripture Service to be conducted at 4 p.m. Then, in the evening at 7 o'clock, the Mass of Resurrection will be celebrated by Rev. James Healy, C.S.C., chaplain of Our Lady of Angels. Burial will be in Resurrection Cemetery, Lockport, on Monday morning, February 13, at 9:30 a.m. May Sister Leander rejoice with her Lord for all eternity!

Devotedly yours in Christ,

THE GOVERNING BOARD

