

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

October 15, 1971

Dear Sisters,

Sister Mary Wilma Hebensberger, O.S.F. died on Wednesday, October 13, 1971 at Our Lady of the Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, Illinois.

About two hours before she died, Sister Wilma went into a coma and died very peacefully. Community-minded as she always was, she talked about the Chapter and the delegates on the very last night of her earthly existence. Her death at 4 a.m. brings us, then, the assurance of her intercession with God for our Congregation.

Her relatives visited her frequently during her illness. Mrs. Frank Thielen, her sister from Chicago, Mrs. F. A. Hebensberger, her sister-in-law, from Oaklawn, and her brother, Mr. Bernard Hebensberger from Denver, Colorado, found great happiness in being with her and witnessing her patience and courage despite her sufferings.

Sister Wilma was born in Chicago on January 6, 1898. She entered our Congregation in 1923, received the habit in 1924, and made her vows in 1927.

Her apostolate was that of an educator. In the classroom and by her dedicated life, she found her mission to the Church in leading the children to the knowledge of God and in witnessing herself to His goodness.

Sister began her teaching career in Chicago at St. Francis DeSales when she was a novice and later spent five and one half years at St. Clement's. Most of her life as an educator was spent in Columbus, Ohio at St. Mary's from 1927-1932, at Immaculate Conception from 1932-1938, and at Corpus Christi from 1946-1950 and 1957-1963. She also served at St. Bernard's in Joliet from 1938-1946 except for the interim of two years when she was on sick leave. Her final years of service were at St. Mary's in Des Plaines, Illinois from 1963-1968. From 1966-1968 she taught fifth grade on a half-day schedule because of her failing health.

In 1968 Sister Wilma came to the Motherhouse. Here she helped with household duties and gave herself to the apostolate of genuine community living and of suffering. In 1970 her illness became aggravated and she sought the quiet and peace of retirement at Our Lady of Angels, and the help and care of our nurses on C2. She awaited death eagerly and beautifully.

The Liturgy of the Resurrection will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 16 at Our Lady of Angels. Burial will be in Resurrection Cemetery in Lockport, Illinois.

Sister Wilma's life was a testimony of her consecration to God as a woman religious and of her devotion to the children as a dedicated teacher. We celebrate her life and death and rejoice in the life she now enjoys in heaven.

Devotedly in Christ,

The Governing Board

