

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

October 22, 1979

Dear Sisters,

Yesterday evening at 5:45 p.m., Sister Natalie Ignat completed her faithful service to the Lord here on earth. Very quietly, she slipped into eternity, ending her life as she had lived it — a gentle, peaceful woman.

The adage "she grew old gracefully" could be applied to Sister Natalie. She was 83 years old on October 10, and until a few months ago, was full of life and ready to be involved in activities. Lovable and warm, Sister spread happiness everywhere. In her own words, she once said, "I try to live peacefully with my Sisters and put some joy in their lives."

Sister Natalie was named Margaret by her parents, John and Elizabeth, at her baptism in Johnstown, PA. She entered the Congregation from St. Stephen's on January 22, 1913, and pronounced her final vows on August 12, 1919. She then spent the next sixty-five years in the classroom. Her first teaching assignment was St. Joseph, Joliet. Eight years were spent in St. Stephen, Streator and two at St. Joseph in Elgin. Her longest service was given to schools in Chicago for a total of 37 years at St. Francis Assisi, Sacred Heart, Huron St., SS. Peter and Paul, St. Francis de Sales and Divine Savior. Ten years she labored in Ohio, St. Mary Magdalene and St. Cecilia, Columbus, and St. Peter in Mansfield. Her last four years in active ministry were spent in tutoring the Vietnamese in English at St. Anne's Parish, Barrington. This past August she moved to Our Lady of Angels and after a ten day final illness, died at St. Joseph Hospital.

Sister Natalie was recognized as an excellent teacher. She used her talent in the service of elementary school children and administration. She was especially effective with the junior high level students, instilling into their impressionable young minds the Christian Franciscan values that she lived daily.

The relatives, Sisters, and friends of Sister Natalie mourn her passing. A prayer service in her honor will be held at Our Lady of Angels at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 23, with the Mass of Christian Burial at 7 p.m. that evening. The Rev. Everett J. Hiller, pastor of St. Rita Parish in Aurora, Rev. Robert Hopkins, CSV, chaplain at OLA, and possibly Sister Natalie's former student, Rev. James Roache of Chicago will concelebrate the Liturgy. Burial will be from Our Lady of Angels to Resurrection Cemetery on Wednesday, October 23, at 9:30 a.m.

We offer our sympathy to the sister of Sister Natalie, Mrs. Clara Mruz of Garfield, NJ., as well as to her nieces, Mrs. Agnes Waters, Mrs. Marilyn Murtak, Mrs. Hilda Payne, and Ms Sade Bumbera; her nephew, Edward Bumbera; also, relatives and friends. May God be merciful to her and reward her.

Sincerely yours,
THE GOVERNING BOARD

