

July 30, 1975

Dear Sisters,

Sister Anita Marie Jochem died quietly in her sleep during the night of July 29, 1975, of "Lou Gehrig's disease, which she had contracted several years ago.

Sister entered the Congregation in 1931 and made final profession in 1937. She celebrated her Silver Jubilee in 1959. Several areas in the Congregation were served by her: St. Francis Academy, St. Clement's High School, Sacred Heart School, Hubbard Woods, where she was principal and superior, and the College of St. Francis, where she was on the Faculty and then President from 1962 - 1969. Following a year's study in London, Sister was Vice-President of Spalding College, Louisville, Kentucky, from 1970 - 1972. In 1972, she was elected to the Governing Board as General Coordinator.

Sister was born in Quincy, Illinois, February 18, 1912, the daughter of Lawrence and Anna (Menke) Jochem. She was baptized Dorothy Ann at St. Francis Solanus Church, Quincy. One brother, Paul, and her father preceded her in death. She is survived by her mother, her brother, Maurice, and two sisters, Mrs. Martha Penderghest and Mrs. Ferd Niemann, all of Quincy.

The Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated on Thursday, July 31, 1975, at 7:30 p.m. Burial will be in Resurrection Cemetery, Lockport, on Friday morning, August 1, 1975.

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

July 30, 1975

Dear Sisters,

Sister Anita Marie wrote her own Alleluia letter over a year before she gave back to God a soul that remained strong and peaceful in His care, even though her body had slowly but surely become weak.

Sister gave the facts about her life in our Congregation, her 44 years of dedication. She let us know where she shared herself with others and served God's people. Her ministry was education, until she was elected to the Governing Board in 1972. Sister told us about her family and the date and place of her birth.

But what Sister Anita Marie did not say in her Alleluia letter was the story of over two years, a story of courage, of faith, of patience, and of acceptance of God's will for her. When she first learned, in October, 1972, that her sickness was very serious and when, in February, 1973, she was told by the Doctors of the Mayo Clinic the full truth of her approaching death, Sister Anita Marie imparted to us the knowledge she had received and calmly went about her daily duties as best she could.

Though the disease slowly took away her strength and vitality, she stayed at her position as General Coordinator as long as she could. The Governing Board considered her a "blessing", believing that her suffering and perseverance brought them light and strength.

We cannot measure anyone's worth by what we know or see. There is Someone, who in each Sister's case, guards the mystery and secret of her life. It is to Him we give back Sister Anita Marie and know that He will receive her as His child and reward her, while at the same time He consoles her mother, sisters and brother for their loss. We, her Sisters, will be strengthened by her example.

THE GOVERNING BOARD

Enclosure

