

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

547

April 7, 1980

Dear Sisters,

Yesterday, Easter Sunday, the entire Christian world sang out with joy, "Jesus is risen. Alleluia!" For one Christian who had believed in Him for almost 91 years, the promise of Jesus was fulfilled: "I shall return to take you with me so that where I am you may be too" (Jn. 14:3). In the infirmary of Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Sister Beata Jonik peacefully died at 1:45 p.m. Preceded in death by her parents, her brother Michael, and her sisters Hattie Pointon, Sister Tharsilla and Sister Bernarda, she had been comforted by the vigil kept at her side by two other sisters who had shared Franciscan religious life with her, Sister Gerarda and Sister Seraphia, and her niece, Sister Michael Marie Jonik. To each of them, as well as to her other sister, Marie Goetzinger, her niece Rosemary Nash, and her grandniece and grandnephew, we offer our sympathy even as we rejoice with them in the faithful life of Sister Beata.

On June 20, 1889, John and Maria (Novak) Jonik were blessed in the birth of Emilia, later christened in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, South Chicago. In 1906, from the nearby parish of SS. Peter and Paul, she entered our Congregation. She received her religious name at her reception on August 12, 1907. Having made first profession of vows in 1909 and final profession in 1915, Sister Beata lived to celebrate her Diamond Jubilee in 1969. This August she would have completed 73 years as a Franciscan Sister.

Sister Beata's long career began in 1910. For eight years she taught in the elementary schools of St. Clement, St. Boniface, St. Ludmilla, and Sacred Heart--Englewood (Chicago); Holy Cross and St. John (Joliet); and St. Stephen (Streator). She seemed most at home with her palette and paintbrushes, however, and devoted the rest of her career teaching art at St. Francis Academy and the College of St. Francis (Joliet); St. Clement and St. Boniface (Chicago); St. Mary (Columbus); and Marybrook Academy (Maumee). Her own education culminated in the Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree she earned at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Declining health forced Sister Beata to leave the teaching profession in 1942, but she gave devoted service in other ways at the Motherhouse, St. Peter's in Mansfield, and the Guardian Angel Home until her retirement to Our Lady of Angels in 1964.

One of Sister Beata's earliest paintings was that of the Face of Jesus, and it was so fitting that she responded to the request to paint the Sacred Face once more, completing it shortly before she broke her hip in a fall last December, from which she never fully recovered. On April 15, to honor her work at the College of St. Francis, Sister Beata was to receive an award at the creative arts banquet of CSF. In her name, Sister Seraphia will receive the award, richly deserved by her artist-sister.

The wake will be held at Our Lady of Angels on Tuesday, April 8, from 2 to 7 p.m. with a prayer service at 3:30 p.m. and the Mass of Resurrection at 7 p.m. Rev. Robert Hopkins, CSV, chaplain, will be celebrant. Burial will be at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 9, at Resurrection Cemetery, Lockport.

God grant our beloved Sister Beata the joy of beholding Him face to Face forever!

Devotedly yours,

THE GOVERNING BOARD  
**ALLELUIA-  
ALLELU**

