

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

August 17, 1987

Dear Sisters and Associates,

Born in 1896 and baptized Martha, Sister Seraphia Jonik was the seventh of eight children of John and Mary Jonik. She grew up in South Chicago, and was fond of music and ice skating while she was growing up.

When we think of Sister Seraphia we remember her as a good and very pleasant lady. We also think of her four Sisters who were Joliet Franciscans: our deceased Sisters Bernarda, Gerarda, Beata and Tharsilla. Hattie, who is also deceased was instrumental in Sister Seraphia's vocation. Sister Seraphia told the story that Hattie used to do volunteer sewing at Guardian Angel Home for several weeks each year. When small pox broke out their parents promised that if Hattie would come home without small pox, Martha could go to the convent. Hattie came home well and strong. Sister Seraphia says, "My father was one for keeping his word. My mother missed the music."

Music was a very special part of Sister Seraphia's life and ministry. She said, "I had choirs galore." For fifty-four years Sister Seraphia taught in elementary schools and was the organist in the parishes. In addition she was the principal for many of those years. Places where she spent most years were: Bayfield; Englewood; Leonore, IL; Benton, MO; and Brunswick, MI.

Sister Seraphia wanted to die on a feast of Our Lady. As the Feast of the Assumption came near she made it known that this feast is the feast she would like for her death. Those who were with her say it was a beautiful and peaceful death. She asked for her niece, Sister Michael Marie Jonik, and when she got to her bedside they were able to communicate their farewell by holding hands.

We offer our love and sympathy to Sister Michael Marie and to Sister Seraphia's only surviving sister, Marie Goetzing, and to her niece, Rosemary Nash. We also extend sympathy to all the Joliet Franciscans, other relatives and friends who have been part of Sister Seraphia's long and beautiful life.

The Governing Board



SISTER M. SERAPHIA JONIK (Martha)

Born: May 29, 1896
 Parents: John and Mary Ann (Novak) Jonik
 Postulancy: February 2, 1914
 Novitiate: August 12, 1914
 First Profession: August 12, 1916
 Final Profession: August 12, 1919
 Died: Saturday, August 15, 1987 at 9:40 a.m. at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home



Ministry:

1915 - 1918 Holy Family, Bayfield, WI, Grades 1, 2, 3 & 4 and Organist
 1918 - 1920 St. Dionysius, Cicero, IL, Grades 4 & 5 and Organist
 1920 - 1922 SS. Peter & Paul, Leonore, IL, Grades 1 & 2 and Organist
 1922 - 1925 Holy Family, Bayfield, WI, Grades 6, 7 and 8 and Organist
 1925 - 1927 St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL, Grade 8 and Organist
 1927 - 1940 Sacred Heart, Englewood, IL, School and Church Music, Organist
 1940 - 1944 SS. Peter & Paul, Leonore, IL, Grades 7 & 8, Principal, Superior and Organist
 1944 - 1950 St. Dionysius, Benton, MO, Grades 7 & 8, Principal, Superior and Organist
 1950 - 1951 Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, OH, Grades 5 & 6, Music, Organist
 1951 - 1952 St. Michael, Worthington, OH, Grades 5 & 6, Music and Organist
 Sacred Heart, Englewood, Chicago, IL, Grade 8, Music
 1952 - 1953 Holy Family, Bayfield, WI, Grades 6, 7 and 8, Organist
 1953 - 1954 St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL, Grade 7, Music and Organist
 1954 - 1959 Immaculate Conception, Kankakee, IL, Grades 5, 6, 7 & 8, Superior, Principal and Organist
 1959 - 1965 St. Michael, Brunswick, MI, Grades 6, 7 & 8, Superior, Principal and Organist
 1965 - 1966 St. Mary, Des Plaines, IL, Grade 8
 Guadalupe, Chicago, IL, Grade 7
 1966 - 1967 St. Stephen, Streator, IL, Grade 6
 1967 - 1968 St. John, Joliet, IL, Grade 6
 1968 - 1969 St. Pascal, Chicago, IL, Grade 4
 1969 - 1970 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, General Assistant
 1970 - 1972 Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL, Receptionist & General Assistant
 1972 - 1987 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Monday, August 17, 1987 from 2 - 7 p.m. with prayer service at 4:15 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Monday, August 17, 1987 at 7 p.m.

Burial: Tuesday, August 18, 1987 from OLA at 9 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery

Survived by sister, Marie Goetzinger, Nieces: Sister Michael Marie Jonik and Rosemary Nash