

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

February 24, 1983

Dear Sisters,

A little over four years ago, Sister Bernilla retired to Our Lady of Angels. At first she was able to spend some time in the library as a part-time librarian. But soon, with both her hearing and eyesight failing, she was unable to continue these duties. For the last couple of years she has been living in the intermediate care unit, receiving the more constant care that she needed. Her last illness ended in death early Wednesday morning, February 23.

Although Sister Bernilla suffered ill health all her life, she lived to celebrate her Diamond Jubilee in the Congregation three years ago. During all these years of religious commitment she ministered faithfully to the needs of elementary school children. She taught every grade from first to eighth, often being given the "problem" children by her principals because she had excellent rapport with children. Perhaps her slighthness of stature evoked a respect from her students, but more likely her true interest in them as persons was responsible for their studious cooperation in the classroom. She was very precise in all she did, accomplishing every duty in a conscientious and exact manner.

Sister Bernilla was a great sports fan, exhibiting particular interest in the Chicago Cubs. In fact, she taught one of the Chicago players, Pewe Reese. One of her favorite recreational activities was to watch the Cubs on TV or listen to the games on her radio. Even this enjoyment was denied her in these later years as her health and faculties failed.

Another favorite pastime of Sister was tatting. She made absolutely lovely lace trims for all kinds of articles, but she was never happier than when she could decorate the albs of her "boys" who were ordained to the priesthood. Many of their first albs and vestments were the handiwork of Sister Bernilla.

In her own quiet way Sister Bernilla suffered from her failing health these past few years. Now she has entered eternity where she is enjoying the fruits of her long life with the Lord. We offer our sympathy to her family: her sister, Mrs. Ann Fincham, and her brother, George Negray, the only living members out of a family of ten children, as well as numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

We pray that Mary, the Mother of Jesus, to whom Sister Bernilla was so devoted during her life, will guide her to the throne of the Father in Heaven, filling her with that joy that no one in this world has experienced.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

THE GOVERNING BOARD



SISTER M. BERNILLA KATCHER, OSF (MARY) 570

Born: June 17, 1902 in Streator, IL
Parents: Charles and Mary (Negray) Katcher
Parish: St. Stephen Parish, Streator, IL



Postulancy: November 1, 1917
Novitiate: August 12, 1918
First Profession: August 12, 1920
Final Profession: August 12, 1923
Diamond Jubilee: June, 1980

Age: 80 years old; in religious life 64 years

MINISTRY:

1919-22 St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA, Grades 2, 4
1922-30 Sacred Heart, Chicago, IL, Grades 1, 5, 6, 7
1930-32 SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL, Grades 6, 7
1932-33 St. Boniface, Chicago, IL, Grade 7
1933-38 St. Pascal, Chicago, IL, Grade 7
1938-Jan. '39: St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, convalescing
Jan.-June '39: SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL, Grade 8 Assistant
1939-40 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, convalescing
1940-42 St. Bernard, Joliet, IL, Grades 3, 4
1942-43 St. Mary, Des Plaines, IL, Grade 3
1943-45 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, convalescing
1945-46 St. Raymond, Joliet, IL, Grade 3
1946-48 St. Mary, Des Plaines, IL, Grade 8
1948-59 St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Grades 3, 5, 7
1959-60 St. Stephen, Streator, IL, Grades 7, 8
1960-62 St. Mary, Des Plaines, IL, Grade 8
1962-66 St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL, Grade 8
1966-67 St. Pascal, Chicago, IL, Grade 7
1967-69 Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chicago, IL, Grades 7, 8
1969-72 SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL, Grade 6
1972-78 St. Stephen, Streator, IL, Part-time Teacher (1972-74);
Librarian (1974-78)
1978-83 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Retired

Died: Wednesday, February 23, 1983 at 6:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Angels
Wake: Friday, February 25, 1983, 2 to 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Angels
Prayer Service: Friday, February 25, 1983, 4:15 p.m.
Mass: Friday, February 25, 1983, 7:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Angels
Burial: Saturday, February 26, 1983, 9:30 a.m. from Our Lady of Angels to
Resurrection Cemetery, Lockport