

528

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

July 13, 1978

Dear Sisters,

Sister M. Clemensine Kocab had lived the life of service to the Lord in our Franciscan Congregation for 59 of her nearly 79 years of life when He called her to Himself at 1:20 this morning, July 13, in the infirmary of Our Lady of Angels. Sister had been sick for the past three years; but she entered a long period of intense suffering last March that remained unabated until death came quietly to her this morning.

Life began for Sister Clemensine on August 23, 1899. Her parents, Vincent and Mary Drozdik Kocab, arranged for her Baptism four days later in St. Procop Church, Cleveland, when she was given the name Anastasia. From this parish, she entered the postulancy of our Congregation on December 7, 1918. She pronounced First Vows in 1921 and made her Perpetual Profession in 1924.

At the time of her Golden Jubilee in 1971, she wrote, "I feel that my service to the Church is 'elementary education' in which I have been engaged for fifty years." Indeed, she was to complete 56 years in education as teacher or principal. She taught at St. Joseph's in Joliet and at St. Procopius, St. Francis de Sales, and St. Ludmilla Schools in Chicago. She also served in the adult education program at Holy Trinity, Westmont, Illinois. However, it was in her home state of Ohio that she spent most of her teaching years--at Corpus Christi in Columbus, and at St. Jude's, Holy Family, and St. Procop's in Cleveland.

One Sister said of Sister Clemensine, "She had a heart of gold; she would rather give than receive." Her students throughout the years could echo these words as they recalled how she had enriched their lives. She maintained discipline and good order while still conveying how much she loved her students.

It was largely because of her encouragement that the Congregation established a convent at Borromeo Seminary in Wickliffe, Ohio, for semi-retired Sisters whose home and ministry had been in the East. Her illness made it impossible for her to enjoy this home for long. After a brief time there and in the convent at St. Francis Academy, she entered Our Lady of Angels this past year.

We extend prayerful sympathy to her sister-in-law, Mrs. Helen Kocab, of Parma Heights, Ohio, and to her nieces and nephews, including her Franciscan niece, Sister M. Celeste Kocab. The wake will be at Our Lady of Angels on Sunday, July 16, from 2 to 9 p.m. with a special public prayer service at 3:30 p.m. Mass of Resurrection will be celebrated in the chapel of Our Lady of Angels on Monday, July 17, at 9:30 a.m. The celebrant will be Reverend Joseph P. Locigno, from New Jersey, a former pupil of Sister Clemensine. Interment will follow at Resurrection Cemetery, Lockport, Illinois.

In one of the last conversations she had, someone posed the question, "Sister, are you ready for Heaven?" Simply, she responded, "Yes, I am ready." May Jesus, who brought her to this readiness, welcome her this day.

Devotedly yours,

THE GOVERNING BOARD

