

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

March 6, 1979

Dear Sisters,

Easter has come early for Sister M. Antonia Kriz. Within the first week of Lent, her Risen Lord took her into His eternal presence to join the saints in singing an unending Alleluia. She died in the infirmary of Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home this afternoon at 12:45. She was in the 86th year of her life and the 62nd year of her religious life.

Sister Antonia was born in Chicago on September 21, 1893, a child of Francis and Mary Fau Kriz. At her Baptism in St. Ludmilla Church, she was given the name Anna. She was 23 years old when she entered the postulancy of the Sisters of St. Francis on December 7, 1916. Her novitiate began on August 12, 1917. She professed her first vows in 1919 and her final vows in 1922.

The 51 years Sister Antonia spent teaching children in the first four elementary grades were divided among three missions: St. Procop, Cleveland, for 35 years; St. Procopius, Chicago, for 14 years; and Holy Family, Cleveland, for 2 years. Not only did Sister Antonia teach "the little ones," but she herself retained throughout her life a childlike and gentle simplicity--that wisdom of which Jesus prayed, "I bless you, Father, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children." Sister was richly endowed with such wisdom.

Soon after her retirement in 1969, she commented on the large number of Sisters sharing life with her at the Motherhouse: "The more, the merrier; each can contribute to the living in her own way." The way for Sister Antonia was that of a quiet, ever-smiling, peaceful presence that welcomed all whom she would meet throughout the day. One left her presence "feeling better" because of an encounter with Sister Antonia.

Last month it was time, she felt, for her to go to Our Lady of Angels. At the supper held at the Motherhouse in her honor, she did not even have to shake the box to guess that there was a jigsaw puzzle in it as the Sisters' parting gift: everybody knew how she had enjoyed working at picture puzzles. This one, however, she was not to complete. Just two days after settling into her room at Our Lady of Angels, Sister suffered a stroke and was taken to the infirmary where she died this afternoon.

Sister Antonia is survived by one sister, Miss Rose Kriz of Berwyn, two nieces, Lillian Frankowski of Berwyn, and Rose Lorr of Buckley, Michigan; and one nephew, Joseph Rada of Chicago. To each of them as well as to all the Sisters of the Congregation, we offer our prayerful sympathy.

The wake for Sister Antonia will be held at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home on Wednesday, March 7, from 2 to 7 p.m., with a special prayer service to be conducted at 3:30 p.m. Then, in the evening at 7 o'clock, the Mass of Resurrection will be celebrated by Rev. Charles Reuter, OFM, chaplain of the Motherhouse. Burial will be on Thursday, March 8, at 10:00 a. m. from Our Lady of Angels to Resurrection Cemetery.

Sister Antonia would have celebrated her Diamond Jubilee this June. May she enjoy an eternal jubilee with her loving Lord.

Devotedly yours,

THE GOVERNING BOARD

