

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

July 18, 1986

Dear Sisters and Associates,

When our Sister Michael Ann McDevitt succumbed midweek to the effects of a massive cerebral hemorrhage, a wonderfully colorful personality disappeared from the Joliet and the Motherhouse scenes. It must have been a merciful release for this energetic Franciscan woman who loved to be up and doing; who enjoyed nothing so much as the chance to be celebrating nature and life in the great out-of-doors. The confinement of a hospital room was surely not Michael's preferred milieu.

Sister Michael Ann was a warm human being whose very life and being were deeply rooted in faith. She reached out to all peoples, and had a special affection for the elderly and the sick. Many are the vivid memories of the countless travels and the rides without number that she offered to the Sisters who needed a driver for wakes, funerals, anniversaries, home visits and jubilee celebrations.

Sister Michael Ann was deeply loved and appreciated by the people she served - perhaps the best testimony that she put her many generous and gracious qualities to very good use indeed. Michael was, as one close friend put it, "a real diamond in the rough." But it required very little talent or intuition to quickly discover the rare gem quality of the woman within.

After many dedicated and successful years as an elementary and junior high teacher, Sister committed herself to Congregational service as transportation coordinator at St. Francis Convent, our Motherhouse. Just recently in a Resource Development Survey when asked to describe her ministry, she wrote:

"Simply put, as one Sister said: 'You call, I haul.' In other words, I provide a needed Community Service for the Sisters at the Motherhouse, providing transportation for those who need it for work, doctor's appointments, shopping, etc. It helps keep the elderly Sisters mobile and independent.

Along with driving I offer a support system, a listening ear, affirmation and a sense of humor. It is the little things in life that are important, the common courtesies we give to each other daily. The older Sisters deserve it.



My ministry here at 520 also includes doing for the older Sisters some of the things they can't do for themselves. What they can do for themselves they should do, for it keeps them independent. I run, shop, pick up meds, etc. Generally I'm a "beep" away.

Visiting the sick Sisters at the hospital and retired at OLA also are among my activities. I'm in a caring ministry which I fulfill with prompt cheerful service. One has to have a sense of humor to ride with me. It is not essential, but it helps."

All of us who knew Michael well, verify this with a resounding "Amen." She was, indeed, a woman of gracious service.

In the end though, Michael's great heart gave out. In her last conscious moments, it was difficult for her as she felt her strength waning, difficult for those who surrounded her and did their best to support her in her day to day effort to continue on. At last the Lord, in His gracious mercy, called Michael to Himself on the afternoon of July 16, the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. What joy must have been hers as she heard personally that assurance which had been her guiding light and powerful motivation throughout life:

"Come, You have my Father's blessing! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me, in prison and you came to visit me. I assure you, as often as you did it for one of my least brothers or sisters, you did it for me."  
(MT. 25)

To all who grieve at this time of loss, we offer our sympathy and prayer, especially Sister's devoted sisters and brothers, Barb, Dorothy, Elizabeth, Marty, Jack and Michael. We remember, too, her in-laws, nieces and nephews and the many who called her friend.

As Sister Michael Ann now celebrates the joy of Resurrection, we recall her presence among us with gratitude. We are appreciative of all she did for the Congregation, and for the many lives she touched. May the Lord Whom she served so generously reward her with the joy of His presence forever.

Sincerely,

The Governing Board

6 // SISTER M. MICHAEL ANN MC DEVITT (HELEN)

Born: April 29, 1930  
Parents: John P. and Veronica (Welsch) McDevitt  
Postulancy: September 11, 1948  
Novitiate: August 12, 1949  
First Profession: August 12, 1951  
Final Profession: August 12, 1954  
Died: Wednesday, July 16, 1986 at 4:40 p.m. at Our Lady of Angels



Ministry:

1951 - 1954 Immaculate Conception, Columbus, OH, Grades 3 & 4  
1954 - 1956 Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, OH, Grades 3 & 4  
1956 - 1958 St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Grades 2 & 6  
1958 - 1959 Holy Family, Cleveland OH, Grade 5  
1959 - 1962 St. Edward, Ashland, OH, Grades 2 & 3  
1962 - 1963 Divine Savior, Chicago, IL, Grade 3  
1963 - 1964 St. John the Baptist, Joliet, IL, Grade 7  
1964 - 1966 St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL, Grade 6  
1966 - 1974 St. Matthew, Champaign, IL, Grade 8  
1974 - 1975 Immaculate Conception, Columbus, OH, Social Studies, Junior High  
1976 - 1986 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, House Driver

Wake: Friday, July 18, 1985 from 2 - 7 p.m. with prayer service at 4:15 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Friday, July 18, 1985 at 7 p.m.

Burial: Saturday, July 19, 1986, at Mansfield Catholic Cemetery

Survived by brothers Jack, Mike, Dale, Jerry and Boots and sisters Elizabeth, Marty, Barb, Judy and Jane and many neices and nephews.