

For those who have been faithful, O Lord,

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Life is not ended, but merely changed.

February 24, 1980

Dear Sisters,

Gently and peacefully, our dear Sister Mary of the Angels Sauer died this morning at 9:15 in the infirmary of Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home. She was surrounded by some of her Sisters who had loved her through life, having celebrated with her the joyous occasion of her Golden Jubilee last June as well as her 80th birthday on January 30.

St. Paul writes: "...whatever is honorable, just, pure, lovely, gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things" (Phil 4:8). Within a close-knit family of eleven children such traits of Anna Sauer's character were formed. Born in Columbus, Ohio, in 1900, of Adam and Christina (Manns) Sauer, she enjoyed a very happy family life, as old family snapshots testify. There she learned to love, and her warm smile became a ready expression throughout her life. It was also within her family, faithful parishioners of St. Mary's, that she experienced God as Love.

Her pastor, Father Edmund Burkley, recommended Anna as "one of the choice first-fruits of St. Mary's High School." Entering the convent at the age of 26, she looked forward to her reception as a novice in 1927 when she received her religious name. Her heart was ready to express First Vows in 1929, and her perpetual commitment began on August 12, 1932.

Sister Mary of the Angels had a lifelong fascination with words. Carefully nuanced expressions flowed easily from her lips and her pen throughout her life. English language and literature became the area of concentrated study. She taught in the Normal School from 1929 to 1931, and then at St. Francis Academy for three years. From 1934 to 1939 and then again, after receiving her doctorate from the University of Michigan, from 1943 through 1950, she was an instructor of English at the College of St. Francis.

The secretarial skills she had mastered in high school were called forth when she was twice elected, from 1950 to 1962, to be Secretary General. A third term in central administration followed upon her election as First Councilor until 1968. She then became the secretary of Bishop Romeo R. Blanchette for almost nine years. In January, 1977, she enriched with her membership the newly formed Constitutions Committee. The millions of words her life's varied ministries exacted from her culminated in the last project she completed for the committee in December, 1977--a research paper on "Religious Obedience." Barely a month after writing of Our Lady's "fiat" of surrender as the Lord's handmaid, she was brought to speak her own as it was found necessary in January, 1978, to amputate her right leg. She, so accustomed to serving others, for the next 24 months would receive the constant care of devoted nurses and friends.

We express our deep sympathy to her two surviving sisters, Mrs. Ottilia Burns, of California, and Mrs. Helen Morbitzer, of Columbus, Ohio; and to all her friends and relatives, including her niece, Sister M. Celine Eisel, and her grandniece, Sister Mary Rose Lieb, OSF.

The wake will be from 2 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 27, with a prayer service at 3:30 p.m. and the Liturgy of Resurrection at 7 p.m., offered by Bishop Joseph Imesch, of Joliet, as principal celebrant. Burial will be the following morning at 9:30 at Resurrection Cemetery, Lockport.

May God comfort us as Sister Mary of the Angels offers for all eternity to Him the poem of her life!

Devotedly yours in Christ,
THE GOVERNING BOARD

