

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

September 17, 1978

Dear Sisters,

The seventeenth day of September is designated on the Franciscan liturgical calendar as the Feast of the Stigmata of St. Francis. On this day, at 10:10 in the morning, our beloved Sister M. Roberta Simonich died at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home. She was 84 years old and had been a professed Franciscan religious for 64 years. For a number of years, but particularly the past few weeks, hers might well have been the words of St. Paul used in the Divine Office for this feast of Francis: "I carry about in my body the dying of Jesus, so that in my body the life of Jesus may also be revealed." (2Cor. 4:10)

Sister Roberta, the former Anna Simonich, was born on March 8, 1894, of John and Catherine Tezak Simonich, parishioners of St. Joseph's Church, Joliet. She received her early education at St. Joseph's School, and it was to this same school that she was to return as a Sister to spend 27 years of her long teaching career of 48 years.

Sister Roberta joined the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate, whom she had long admired, on January 11, 1913. She began her novitiate six months later. Her First Vows were pronounced on August 12, 1915; her Final Vows, on August 12, 1919.

Besides the 27 years Sister Roberta spent at St. Joseph's, she served at Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chicago, for twelve years, both as its first principal and as a teacher. Other places of her ministry include St. Stephen's, Johnstown; Holy Family, Cleveland; St. Mary's, Des Plaines; Sacred Heart, (Englewood) Chicago; and St. Stephen's, Streator. For several years before her retirement, Sister was portress at St. Francis Convent. In 1966, the year following her Diamond Jubilee, Sister retired to Our Lady of Angels.

We offer our sincere and prayerful sympathy to two surviving sisters, Mrs. Anton (Emma) Lausch, of Joliet; and Mrs. Mathilda Anich, of W. Allis, Wisconsin; as well as to her other relatives, her many friends, her former students, and all the Sisters.

On Tuesday, September 19, the wake will be from 2 to 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Angels. A prayer service will be held at 3:30 p.m., and the Liturgy of the Resurrection will be celebrated at 7 p.m. that same day. The burial will be on Wednesday morning, September 20, from Our Lady of Angels to Resurrection Cemetery, Lockport.

The children who sat in Sister Roberta's classroom appreciated her excellence as a teacher and the warmth and generosity of her character. The young women who knew her as moderator of the Sodality of Our Lady often spoke of her profound influence upon their lives. The Sisters with whom she shared her prayer life learned of her deep and constant reverence for the Holy Name of Jesus. We pray that Jesus, in whose Name Sister Roberta placed her trust, may now be her eternal reward.

Devotedly yours,  
THE GOVERNING BOARD

