

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

June 27, 1985

Dear Sisters and Associates,

Although at the time she certainly didn't realize it, those final days leading to her retirement from Waubensee College near Aurora were some of Sister Constance Skamla's last active days among us. Within 2 weeks of having taught her last class as a psychiatric nursing instructor at the College, her ministry for these last 12 years, Sister succumbed to her progressively weakening condition and asked to be taken to the hospital. Although the Sisters were aware that Connie hadn't been looking well for some months, no one imagined that she'd not be returning to spend a few more days among her friends in Aurora before moving to Joliet to begin the retirement phase of her career. As it happened, the renal failure that set in soon after she was hospitalized, caused her death on Monday, June 24 at 2:50 in the afternoon.

Though somewhat a private and reserved person during her lifetime, Sister Constance was revered by many and exerted a great influence over the minds and hearts of her students, as well as her colleagues and co-workers. Her life was committed to healing and to education in the health arts area. One of her students, currently a nurse at Mercy Center in Aurora, summed it up by saying "She was an excellent teacher, urging her students to be good and independent thinkers, capable of standing solidly on their own two feet."

While working at Mercyville in the late 1960's the Administrator there wrote of her ". . . Her maturity, wisdom and knowledge of psychiatric nursing make her a real asset to our organization."

Sister Constance was actively involved in the networking of the Joliet Franciscans in Aurora and found great support and encouragement in the sharing that took place among the Sisters missioned in the area. A fond remembrance among her friends is her gift of a single rose in a vase at times of celebration or of illness. . . her way of sharing presence.

We offer our sympathy to Sister Constance's sisters Margaret and Ann, her brothers Frank and Bernard and her niece Gervase, as well as her many other friends and relatives.

Although we will miss her, we rejoice with Connie as she celebrates retirement in the peaceful presence of the Lord she served so well.

Sincerely,  
The Governing Board



Sister M. Constance Skamla (Lucy) 598

Born: July 2, 1916  
Parents: Frank and Mary (Matuch) Skamla  
Postulancy: September 8, 1934  
Novitiate: August 12, 1935  
1st Profession: August 12, 1937  
Final Profession: August 12, 1940  
Died: Monday, June 24, 1985 at 2:50 p.m. at Mercy Center for Health Care Services, Aurora, IL



Ministry:

- 1937 - 1938 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Student
- 1938 - 1940 Sacred Heart, Chicago, IL, Algebra, English, Latin, Religion
- 1940 - 1942 St. Procopius, Chicago, IL, Algebra, Latin, Religion
- 1942 - 1943 St. John's School of Nursing, Springfield, IL, Student Nurse
- 1943 - 1945 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Nurse on 2nd and 3rd floor
- 1945 - 1947 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Biology, Latin, Religion, Geometry
- 1947 - 1949 Marybrook Academy, Maumee, OH, Latin, Chemistry, Helped with Nursing, Supervisor, Directress
- 1949 - 1951 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL Infirmarian-Third Floor
- 1951 - 1953 St. John's Hospital, Springfield, IL, Student Nurse
- 1953 - 1959 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Infirmarian - Third Floor
- 1959 - 1960 Catholic University, Washington, D.C., Student- Psychiatric Nursing
- 1960 - 1961 St. Joseph Hospital, St. Paul, MN, Field Work
- 1961 - 1962 Catholic University, Washington, D.C. Student-Psychiatric Nursing
- 1962 - 1965 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Nurse
- 1965 - 1966 St. Joseph Hospital, Joliet, IL, Asst. Supervisor Psychiatric Unit
- 1966 - 1971 Mercyville Hospital, Aurora, IL, Psychiatric Nursing
- 1971 - 1973 St. Rita of Cascia, Aurora, IL, Program Director of Partial Hospitalization
- 1973 - 1985 Waubensee Community College, Sugar Grove, IL, Psychiatric Nursing Instructor

Wake: Thursday, June 27, 1985 from 2 - 7 p.m. with prayer service at 3:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Thursday, June 27, 1985 at 7 p.m.

Burial: Friday, June 28, 1985 from OLA at 9 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL

Survived by sisters, Margaret and Ann Skamla, brothers Francis, and Bernard all of Johnstown, Pennsylvania

