

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

January 14, 1982

Dear Sisters,

Sister M. Procopia Soukup died Wednesday, January 13, 1982. Sister, who had fallen into a coma following a recent fall, may have had a premonition of the Lord's call. Last week she informed an aide that she was using her last bar of soap. There would be no need to open another.

Born April 10, 1887 in Chicago, she was named Antonia by her parents, Frank and Anna Soukup. Her religious name was the feminine form of her home parish's patron, St. Procopius. Sister Procopia made her first profession in 1911. At the age of 94, she had witnessed to her promises for 72 years, celebrating her Diamond Jubilee in 1971.

Many people could testify to Sister's charity and fidelity. In 1913 one Superior wrote, "Inclined to be disorderly, but otherwise charitable, obedient, and respectful. A good religious."

Sister's work of "collaring" a Congregation in an era when all Sisters wore stiff white collars evokes humorous stories, each filled with her caring approach. Sister made collar measuring a memorable experience for many postulants. She could be gruff. She could be independent, but the twinkle in her eye assured an expansive heart and good humor.

Sister taught elementary grades for 48 years, serving at St. Procopius and SS. Cyril and Methodius (Chicago) and Holy Family (Cleveland). For 16 years she ministered at Guardian Angel Home as General Assistant. She retired to Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home in 1974.

The Sisters at Guardian Angel Home fondly recalled her presence among the children and staff. She always had a special interest in the "naughty kids," Sister Armella reminisced, quieting them down and talking with them. Her favorite phrase in recent years, Sister Dominic Marie noted, captured Sister's yearning to return to GAH: "I guess my visa didn't come in yet."

At Our Lady of Angels Sister filled her room with stuffed animals. She kept up a lively interplay with them. While she had this imaginary world, she consistently reached out to the real world. She treasured and nourished friendship. She had a deep affection for her "adopted son," Father John Kosmal.

The Congregation extends its sympathy and prayers to Sister's brother, Joseph Soukup, who resides in San Clemente, California, and to her nieces and nephews.

The prayer service for Sister Procopia will be at OLA on Friday, January 15, at 3:30 p.m. The concelebrated Mass of Christian Burial, with Rev. John Kosmal as principal celebrant, will be at 7 p.m. that same evening. Burial services will begin from OLA at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, January 16, with interment at Resurrection Cemetery.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Governing Board

ALLELUIA
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