

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

January 14, 1978

Dear Sisters,

Sister M. Herman Joseph Streck had lived the life of service to the Lord for almost 60 years as a Sister of St. Francis when He called her to Himself last night, January 13, 1978, at 9:40. She had been taken to St. Joseph Hospital last Sunday evening for an emergency surgery and remained in the intensive care unit until her death. She was 77 years old.

Sister Herman Joseph was born in Budapest, Hungary, on June 7, 1900, of Bohemian parents, John and Mary Ruman Streck. She was given the name Olga at her Baptism in St. Leopold Church, Budapest. It was only natural that, when she decided to become a Franciscan Sister at the age of 17, she would choose to join the Sisters who staffed St. Stephen School in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, for her family had become parishioners of St. Stephen's when they came to this country. On August 12, 1918, she was received as a novice. She pronounced her first vows on August 12, 1920, and her final vows three years later. With her classmates, Sister celebrated her golden jubilee in 1970.

Like many of our other Sisters, Sister Herman Joseph accomplished a remarkable record of service in education. All but four of the 50 years of her teaching career in the primary grades were spent in initiating children into the first grade. She was admired for being "an excellent first-grade teacher." Her years "on mission" were divided between St. Stephen's in Streator, where she spent 14 years as a teacher, and St. Stephen's in Johnstown, where she taught for 36 years and served an additional six years as housekeeper.

In August, 1976, Sister Herman Joseph retired to Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home where she adjusted well although her heart "was still in Johnstown." She often reminisced over her years in Johnstown, including her experiences in the flood.

We pray that her two sisters who survive her, Mrs. Mary Janet and Agnes Streck, both of Johnstown, as well as her nieces and nephews, may be comforted in knowing of the faithful response of their Franciscan sister to her vocation. To all who loved Sister we offer our sincere sympathy.

The wake for Sister Herman Joseph will be held at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home from 2:00 to 7:00 on Sunday, January 15. A special prayer service will be conducted at 3:30 in the afternoon. Following the wake, at 7:00 on Sunday evening, Reverend James Healy, C.S.C., will celebrate the Mass of Resurrection. Burial will be in Resurrection Cemetery, Lockport, on Monday morning, January 16, at 9:30.

For Sister Herman Joseph, the words of the Song of Songs have been realized: "My Beloved is mine and I am His" -- for all Eternity. We rejoice with our sister, for whom "the winter is past, the rains are over and gone" and "the season of glad songs has come."

Devotedly yours in Christ,

THE GOVERNING BOARD

