

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

July 28, 1982

Dear Sisters,

Monday evening, July 26, Sister Margaret Mary Thompson was failing to such a marked degree that she was admitted to St. Joseph Hospital in Joliet. Although she was most uncomfortable, she was able to respond to the requests of the nurses and speak a few words, even to the time of her death. During some testing she died at 4:15 p.m. on July 27.

Sister Margaret Mary was approaching her 79th birthday, having lived 59 years as a Sister of St. Francis. On her reception day 59 years ago she was given the name Sister Giles. During these intervening years Sister Margaret Mary must have thought of the significance of her "religious" name. Brother Giles was the third companion of St. Francis, coming to Francis and his other companions at Rivo Torto. When a beggar asked an alms of Francis, the saint turned to Giles and said: "Give this poor brother your cloak." The Mirror of Perfection says "at once Giles gladly removed it from his back and gave it to the poor man. Then it became clear to him that God had imparted a new grace to his heart . . . So he was received into the Order by blessed Francis, and constantly advanced in virtue to the greatest perfection."

Like Brother Giles, her namesake, Sister Margaret Mary was called to lead a simple life. She patiently travelled from mission to mission during her active years to teach the little children. During her years as a teacher she was associated with fifteen different schools. She was charitable and patient with the primary-aged children, loving to teach them reading, singing and lessons about their God. She was a light-hearted person, always cheerful and willing to lend a hand to any enterprise.

During these past months she suffered her final illness with patience and prayerful composure. She and Sister Theolinda faithfully prayed their rosary together each day, and have for years given mutual support to each other as residents of OLA. Through her ever-deepening relationship with God, and the loving support of her Sisters in community, Sister Margaret Mary was able to endure her increasing suffering with equanimity.

Sister Margaret Mary is survived by a niece, Mary Pauline Jensen Huber, of Estaline, S. Dak., her niece's step-mother, Mrs. Herman Huber of Joliet, and two cousins in Chicago: Mrs. Marian Zacharia and Ms Marguerite Ready. To these her family members and to all her friends, we offer our prayerful sympathy.

Sister Margaret Mary has been given her eternal reward by a God who is always faithful. We pray she may enjoy the companionship of the first Franciscans, including her namesake, Brother Giles, in heaven.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Governing Board



VITAE of Sister Margaret Mary Thompson (Sister Giles) 566



Born: October 1, 1903, Evanston, Illinois
Parents: John and Catherine (Long) Thompson
Baptized: Oct. 27, 1903, St. Nicholas Church

Postulancy: September 8, 1922
Novitiate: August 12, 1923
First Profession: Aug. 12, 1925
Final Profession: Aug. 12, 1928
Golden Jubilee: June 21, 1975

Ministry:

- 1924-25 St. Peter, Mansfield, Ohio, Grade 1
1925-27 St. Joseph, Manhattan, IL Grades 1-4
1927-30 St. Clement, Chicago, IL Grades 1 or 2
1930-32 Sts. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL Grades 2 or 3
1932-33 St. Mary, DesPlaines, IL Grades 3-4
1933-43 Immaculate Conception, Toledo, Ohio Grade 2
1943-44 St. Francis Convent, Joliet
1944-45 Sacred Heart, Hubbard Woods, St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL Grade 2
1945-49 St. Peter, Mansfield, Ohio Grade 2
1949-50 Our Lady of Mercy, Granville, Ohio General work
1950-52 St. Boniface, Chicago, IL Grade 3
1952-54 Sts. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL Grade 3
1954-55 Sacred Heart, Englewood, IL Grade 3
1955-56 St. Pascal, Chicago, IL Grade 3
1956-66 Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, Ohio Grade 2 or 3
1966-67 St. Stephen, Streator, IL; St. Joseph, Joliet, IL Grade 2, 3, or 4

General Help in Convent:

- 1967-68 St. Clement, Chicago, IL; Motherhouse, Joliet
1968-69 Annunciation, Aurora, IL
1969-70 Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, Ohio
1970-71 St. Matthew, Champaign, IL
1971-73 St. Joseph, Elgin, IL
1973-75 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home

Retired:

- 1975-82 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home

Died: Tuesday, July 27, 1982 4:15 p.m.
St. Joseph Hospital, Joliet
Wake: Friday, July 30, 1982, from 2 to 7 p.m.
Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet
Prayer Service: July 30 at 3:30 p.m.
Mass of
Resurrection: July 30, at 7 p.m.
Our Lady of Angels Chapel
Burial Services: Saturday, July 31, 1982
9:30 a.m. from Our Lady of Angels to
Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Joliet, IL