

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

December 28, 1979

Dear Sisters,

At 5:25 this morning in the infirmary of Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, our dear Sister M. Fides Thorn entered into the eternal peace of God, having spent over 63 of her 82 years as a Sister of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate. Sister had enjoyed Christmas Eve in the company of her Sisters, alert to the events of the celebration of Christ's Birth. The following morning she was found to be too ill to leave her bed, and there she remained until her death on this feast of Holy Innocents.

Sister Fides was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on July 23, 1897, and given the name Wilhelmine at her Baptism on September 5 of that year in the Church of the Immaculate Conception. Her parents were John and Angela (Braquet) Thorn. Having moved with her family to Chicago in early childhood, Sister became an active member of St. Francis De Sales Parish, from which she entered the postulancy of our Congregation on December 7, 1915. Her novitiate began on August 12, 1916. On the Feast of St. Clare two years later she made her First Vows, and in 1921 she pronounced her Final Vows. Sister had the joy of celebrating her diamond jubilee in June, 1978.

For 52 years, Sister Fides served in the field of education. Except for a single year at St. Francis Academy, Joliet, Sister devoted her talents to teaching in the elementary grades, for the most part in the seventh grade. Eighteen years were spent at St. Ann's, Lansing, Illinois. Other Illinois missions receiving her ministry were St. Paul the Apostle and St. Jude (Joliet); St. Pius X (Lombard); St. Clement, St. Francis Xavier, and Sacred Heart, Englewood (Chicago). Sister also taught for one year in Pennsylvania at St. Stephen's (Johnstown) as well as for fourteen years in Ohio--St. Mary's, Immaculate Conception, and Corpus Christi (Columbus); Immaculate Conception (Toledo); and St. Peter's (Mansfield). She retired to Our Lady of Angels in 1975.

Sister's name "Fides" fit her so well. She responded throughout life to whatever was asked of her in a manner that was faithful, exact, conscientious. By temperament she was quiet and gentle, yet her Sisters who lived with her can vouch for the warm sense of humor they frequently witnessed.

The wake for Sister Fides will be held on Sunday, December 30, 1979, from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, with a special prayer service at 7 p.m. The following morning, Monday, December 31, Reverend Robert Hopkins, CSV, chaplain of Our Lady of Angels, will celebrate the Mass of Resurrection at 9:30 a.m. Burial services will follow at Resurrection Cemetery, Lockport.

Sister Fides is survived by one niece, Mrs. Angie McArdle, of Maryland, and one nephew, Robert Thorn, of Chicago, as well as several cousins. To each of them and to all the Sisters who loved Sister Fides in life, we offer our sympathy and prayers. May Sister enjoy Life Everlasting!

Devotedly yours,

THE GOVERNING BOARD

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