

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

February 1, 1977

Dear Sisters,

This morning at 7:55, on the first day of a new month, Sister M. Sylvester Vanis died at St. Joseph Hospital. She was in the 77th year of Christian life and the 55th year of Religious life.

Sister Sylvester had entered the hospital on January 21. Nine days later she was brought back home to Our Lady of Angels feeling, she said, "really wonderful." The weekend was a pleasant one for her as she was able to walk a little and to enjoy her meals. Always so grateful for the least favor anyone did for her, she thanked the nurse most cheerfully yesterday for threading her needle that she might engage in some hand-sewing. Then, at 2:25 yesterday afternoon, she became suddenly very sick. An ambulance took her to the hospital where she died peacefully this morning.

Born on March 14, 1900, in Chicago, Sister Sylvester was the daughter of Adalbert and Maria Bouse Vanis. At Baptism in St. Ludmilla Church, she received the name Josephine. She joined our Congregation at the age of 21, making her First Profession in 1924, and her Perpetual Profession in 1927. She celebrated fifty years of vowed life in June, 1974.

Sister Sylvester's 45-year career as a primary teacher began at St. Stephen's, Johnstown, in 1923. After one year there, she was assigned to St. Procop's, Cleveland, where she taught for 32 consecutive years. The last 13 years of her long and fruitful ministry were spent at St. Procopius, Chicago, from which she retired to the Motherhouse in 1969 and finally to Our Lady of Angels eleven months ago.

Sister is survived by two sisters-in-law, Olga and Mary Vanis, a niece, and a nephew. When word of her death reached the Sisters at Our Lady of Angels, one comment was spontaneously spoken that everyone who knew Sister must have thought, "Now she is with 'Honey.'" This was the name by which she affectionately called her beloved sister, Sister Narcissa, who preceded her in death almost ten years ago. Surely to her family, as it is to us, there is comfort in the thought of the long and faithful response these two sisters gave to their religious vocation. We offer the family our loving sympathy.

A Scripture Service will be conducted at Our Lady of Angels on Thursday, February 3, 1977, at 3:30 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Father Harold Niedziewski, O.F.M., on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Burial services will be held at Resurrection Cemetery at 10 o'clock on Friday morning, February 4. May our Sister rest in peace.

Devotedly in Christ,

THE GOVERNING BOARD

