

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

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November 19, 1986

Dear Sisters and Associates,

Born in Chicago and baptized Anna, Sister Francis Marie Vrba was the third of six children of James and Mary. Sister Francis Marie entered the Sisters of St. Francis at age 23 and began teaching three years later, after her first profession.

Unlike so many Joliet Franciscans, Sister Francis Marie could count off the places of community residence on one hand: the Motherhouse in Joliet, St. Procopius in Chicago and Our Lady of Angels in Joliet.

Her only teaching assignment, at St. Procopius in Chicago, lasted for fourteen years. She taught kindergarten, grade 1 and grade 2 during those years. Her students remember her as a very kind and very thorough teacher. She named those years as the highlight of her life.

Sister Francis Marie's teaching career ended when she was stricken with tuberculosis in 1949. Her recuperation was long and as she improved she returned to a different ministry. She found she had a talent for book-keeping and clerical work so she assisted in the treasurer's office at the Motherhouse and then she did clerical work at Our Lady of Angels. Her physical condition was such a pervasive part of her life, never experiencing good health after 1949, that her life took on the quality of a semi-cloistered Sister.

In 1980 Sister Francis Marie called herself "retired" but she continued with a new kind of ministry. She beautifully wrapped countless Christmas packages and Easter baskets for the Sisters at Our Lady of Angels. In addition, she assisted in many other kinds of service for the Sisters who were older and less able than she.

We extend our sympathy and share our grieving with Sister Francis Marie's brothers, Stan and Charles, who survive her. We are grateful to Sister Francis Marie for offering her suffering in harmony with the ministries of our Sisters. In 1938 when she wrote to Mother Thomasine to be admitted to perpetual profession, she wrote "I hope, with the help of God, to remain faithful to the end." We celebrate with Sister Francis Marie her long and faithful life. With her we now say:

Sincerely,

The Governing Board



SISTER FRANCIS MARIE VRBA (ANNA)



Born: September 11, 1909
Parents: James and Mary (Blaha) Vrba
Postulancy: September 8, 1932
Novitiate: August 12, 1933
First Profession: August 12, 1935
Final Profession: August 12, 1938
Died: Sunday, November 16, 1986 at 1:45 a.m. at
Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home

Ministry:

1935 - 1949 St. Procopius, Chicago, IL, Kindergarten, Grades
1 and 2
1949 - 1952 Municipal Tuberculosis Sanitarium, Chicago, IL
1952 - 1962 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Assistant in
Bursar's Office
1962 - 1980 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Clerical Work
1980 - 1986 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Tuesday, November 18, 1986 from 2 - 7 p.m. with
Prayer Service at 4:15 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Tuesday, November 18, 1986 at 7 p.m.

Burial: Wednesday, November 19, 1986 at 9 a.m. to
Resurrection Cemetery

Survived by brothers Stan and Charles of Chicago Illinois, niece, nephew
and friends