

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

January 4, 1982

Dear Sisters,

Sister Ildephonse Young spent much of Advent in the hospital and the infirmary with a broken hip. On Christmas eve she participated in the Sisters' party at Our Lady of Angels, but shortly after Christmas she lost all interest in exterior activities. Just three days into the New Year, she departed this world for her heavenly home at 1:45 p.m. yesterday. Although ninety-two years "old," she was "forever young"—a favorite saying of hers, and embracing a degree of truth that she probably never meant to imply.

Rose Elizabeth Young became the daughter of Matthew and Mary Catherine (Laueremann) Young on July 31, 1889 in Chicago. Later her family moved to SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Naperville. She departed from Naperville on February 3, 1912 for St. Francis Convent in Joliet, the beginning of her seventy years as a Sister of St. Francis. In 1974 she celebrated her Diamond Jubilee, the last public milestone in her long and successful life as a Franciscan woman religious.

As a second year novice, from September, 1913 to June, 1914, Sister Ildephonse became a pilgrim in the true sense of the word. She taught a few months at SS. Peter and Paul, St. Francis Xavier, St. Francis de Sales, Chicago; and St. John, Joliet; as well as studied art at the Motherhouse. In each of these changes she was involved in a different grade: one, two, three, six and seven. That year alone must have been a test of the strength of her vocation and her ability to endure change.

Sister Ildephonse had a varied and interesting ministry within the Congregation. Besides the schools mentioned above, she was also involved in education at St. Joseph, Freeport; St. Francis Assisi and St. Boniface, Chicago; St. Mary, Columbus; St. Joseph, Pesotum; St. Joseph, and St. Francis Preparatory, Joliet; St. Denis, Benton; and St. Peter, Mansfield. During all her years in the schools of the Congregation, she attended the educational needs of children ranging from first to eleventh grade and served as principal in several schools. Twenty-one years of her life she ministered to the young women of Marybrook Academy, serving in numerous capacities until it closed in 1964.

Many Sisters remember Sister Ildephonse in her role as Directress of Postulants. On two different occasions—from 1925-28 and 1939-42—she was involved in training the postulants. Although firm with the new recruits to religious life, she treated them with respect and kindness.

Sister Ildephonse is mourned by her sister, Katherine Kellner of Wisconsin, and several nieces and nephews. To all her relatives and friends we extend our sympathy at this time of her death. Her wake will be at Our Lady of Angels from 2-7 p.m. on January 5 with a prayer service at 3:30 p.m. The Liturgy of Resurrection will be celebrated by Rev. Manuel Loughran, CSV, at 7 p.m. in the OLA chapel. Burial services will follow the next morning at Resurrection Cemetery.

Sister Ildephonse offered the gift of her life to Jesus at her Baptism and at her religious profession, but especially on the Feast of the Epiphany—the day of her death. She was privileged to present the gold, frankincense and myrrh of her life on the day the Magi offered their gifts. May Jesus accept her gifts and reward her with His eternal love.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Governing Board

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