

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

February 8, 1977

Dear Sisters,

As Sisters and nurses gathered around her bed at Our Lady of Angels to pray, including often the "Memorare," which she loved so well, Sister Marian Zelinsky died this morning at 10 o'clock. Death came after many weeks of suffering which she endured courageously, offering her pain, she would say, "for our Congregation."

On at least one occasion soon after she had been taken to St. Joseph Hospital a month ago, Sister Marian, though short of breath, wanted "to tell my story." Her reminiscence took her back to her home in Pennsylvania where she was born on December 21, 1899, in the town of Kittaning. Her parents, Luke and Barbara (Nemchick) Zelinsky, named her Mary. The highlights of her years of Franciscan religious life span more than six decades, from her entrance into our Congregation in 1914, through her Final Profession in 1919, and beyond her Diamond Jubilee in 1976. In her story, Sister lingered long on the recollection of this last celebration of her sixty years of vowed life. She saw it as a gracious gift of God that she had lived to enjoy this climax of her 63 years of religious life. After this she was ready to pray her "Nunc Dimittis."

Except for five years in Ohio -- at St. Procop, Cleveland, and St. Peter, Mansfield -- Sister's entire ministry was spent in Illinois. She served at St. Wenceslaus, St. Joseph, St. Jude, St. Francis Academy, and Guardian Angel Home (Joliet); St. Francis de Sales, St. Procopius, St. Clement, Sacred Heart, SS. Peter and Paul, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Francis Xavier, and Assumption (Chicago); St. Stephen (Streator); St. Joseph (Elgin); Sacred Heart of Jesus (Lillyville); and St. Joseph (Freeport). She spent the last year at Our Lady of Angels in 1976.

Sister Marian is survived by nieces, nephews, and cousins. We extend to all of them our prayerful sympathy.

A Scripture Service will be held on Thursday afternoon at 3:30, February 10, at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home. The Mass of Resurrection will be celebrated on Thursday evening at 7:30 by Rev. John Spitzkovsky, the pastor of Assumption Church, Chicago. The following morning, February 11, at 10 o'clock, Rev. Casimir Lutomski, chaplain of Our Lady of Angels, will preside over the burial services at Resurrection Cemetery, Lockport.

In her last letter to her relatives, Sister Marian wrote, "God has been very good to me these 77 years." We invite all of the Sisters, the relatives and friends of Sister Marian to join us in thanking Him who has so blessed our Sister as well as our Congregation in which she lived so faithfully.

Devotedly in Christ,

THE GOVERNING BOARD

