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For those who have been faithful, O Lord,

life is not ended, but merely changed.

June 23, 1977

Dear Sisters,

Sister Ivan lived to celebrate her 84th birthday on June 20. Her feast day, June 24, she will celebrate with her patron, St. John the Baptist, in heaven. (Ivan is the Russian form of the name John.) On Tuesday evening, June 21, Sister Ivan suffered a massive stroke, and she died on Wednesday afternoon about 1 p.m.

Sister Ivan was the last of twelve children born to Bernard and Anna Babka. She was baptized in St. Ludmilla Church, Chicago, on July 4, 1893. When she was twenty-three years old, she entered the postulancy on December 7, 1916, and made her final vows six years later on August 12, 1922. She dedicated all these sixty-some years to her Lord, to her Sisters in the Congregation, and to the children in the schools where she ministered.

During all her religious life, she was committed to excellence in the Catholic School system. Even as a very young Sister, she was considered an excellent teacher. Between the years 1918 and 1940, she taught the elementary grades in Chicago, Cleveland, and Joliet. Most of her years from 1940-1964 were spent being principal and superior at SS. Cyril and Methodius in Chicago and St. Mary's, Des Plaines. During the last six years of her teaching ministry, she instructed the sixth graders at St. Paul's, Joliet. Her farewell party at St. Paul's in June, 1970, at the time of her retirement, was a great tribute to her for all she had done for the children of the parish. By extension, it was an honor for her untiring work for all the children she so ably taught during her fifty-two years of service.

Sister Ivan retired to the Motherhouse in September, 1970. She will long be remembered for the work of her fingers -- her banners and her fancy-work -- all beautifully and skillfully designed. But her true ministry these past years was her life of deep prayer. At least once a week she told some member of the Administration that she prayed each day for the Congregation. "After all, I now have the time to do it."

In February, 1977, ill health necessitated her transfer to Our Lady of Angels. She hated to leave the Motherhouse, but an attitude of life that always said, "Whatever He wants, if it is His Holy Will," helped her in her adjustment to her new surroundings. Now, after a long life of dedication and patient acceptance of His Holy Will, she is enjoying His Presence in eternity.

The Liturgy of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday evening, June 24, at 7 p.m. in the chapel at Our Lady of Angels. Her burial will be at Resurrection Cemetery Saturday morning at 10:00.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

THE GOVERNING BOARD
**ALLELUIA--
ALLELUIA**