

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

February 25, 1979

Dear Sisters,

Surrounded by her beloved sister, Sister Merwyn, and other Sisters of the St. Francis Academy community, Sister Mary Jane Baron died this morning at about eight o'clock. Death came with little immediate warning to Sister Jane. She had arisen and dressed as usual in preparation for the Sunday morning liturgy when she felt ill and collapsed. The Lord, whom she loved as her Good Shepherd, gently led her to the restful waters of the eternal home He had prepared for her. She was 71 years old and in religious life 52 years.

A resident of Joliet, Illinois, throughout her girlhood, Sister Jane was born on August 29, 1907. She was baptized and confirmed in the Eastern Rite and given the name of Mary. Her parents, John and Mary Harligh Baron, four brothers, and three sisters preceded her in death. She received her grade school education from St. Joseph's School and entered the postulancy in 1925, receiving the habit on August 12, 1926. Her first vows were pronounced on August 12, 1928; and her final vows, three years later.

Sister Jane's ministerial dedication for 50 years was to teaching in the primary and intermediate grades. Practically all of her teaching career was spent in rural poverty areas in the states of Illinois, Ohio, and Missouri. She was one of the original team of Sisters to start the remedial reading tutoring program with Sister M. Dolores Hohman and gave 25 summers to tutoring children. Her last year of teaching was at St. Michael's in Sigel, Illinois, from which she retired to the St. Francis Academy Sisters' Residence in 1977.

Just one month before her Golden Jubilee in June, 1978, Sister Jane was afflicted with a little-known "disease," "polymyoalgae rheumatica." She once remarked, "God's gift to me for my Golden Jubilee was the cross of constant pain." Although hospitalized five different times within the past year, Sister Jane did not remain idle. She had enjoyed crocheting afghans for benefactors of the Congregation during the past 25 years and contributed even to the latest bazaar at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home. Currently she was involved in cutting out designs to grace the walls of the Sisters' dining room for the celebration of a Mardi Gras party planned for Shrove Tuesday, which now will be replaced by the celebration of her funeral liturgy. The Sisters will miss her amiable and gentle presence.

We offer our deepest sympathy to all the Sisters of the Congregation, especially to Sister Merwyn and her other sisters and brothers, all of Joliet: Mrs. Albert (Tillie) Hanson, Mrs. Elmo (Julie) Dibartolo, Mr. Michael Baron, and Mr. Matthew Baron. We extend sympathy also to her Aunt Tecla Pyszniak, of Canada, numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

The wake for Sister Jane will be on Tuesday, February 27, from 2 to 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home. A prayer service will be held at 3:30 p.m. with Rev. Gregory Petruska, pastor of St. Mary Assumption Church, Joliet, officiating. The theme of the Good Shepherd will permeate the liturgy of the Mass of Resurrection at 7 p.m. on Tuesday. Burial will be at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 28, from Our Lady of Angels to Resurrection Cemetery, Lockport. May Sister Jane "live in the House of the Lord for ever and ever!"

Devotedly yours in Christ,

THE GOVERNING BOARD

