

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

January 15, 1980

Dear Sisters,

"If we believe that Jesus died and rose, God will bring forth with him from those also who have fallen asleep believing in Him." These words of St. Paul (1 Thess. 4:14) are realized this day for Sister M. Lilian Bredel. For over 87 years, Sister Lilian "believed"; and this evening at 6:15, having "fallen asleep believing in Him," she awaits the Father's welcome into Eternal Life as He brings her forth to Himself. Today is the second anniversary of her retirement to Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home.

Sister Lilian was born on November 27, 1892, in Chicago, of John and Rosina (Stich) Bredel. She was baptized on December 4, 1892, at St. Boniface Church, Chicago. As a young girl, Marie was attracted to the Franciscan religious life of our Congregation, and she entered the postulancy from St. Benedict's Parish, Chicago, on November 4, 1917. The following August 12 she became a novice, receiving her religious name. Her first vows were pronounced in 1920; her final vows, in 1923. Although Sister did not live to see her Diamond Jubilee, which was to be celebrated in June of this year, the pictures taken of her at the time of her Golden Jubilee in 1970 attest to the joy that was hers as a Franciscan Sister. This year is the 62nd year of her religious life.

Sister Lilian spent 53 years in the education ministry as high school teacher, college instructor, education consultant, principal, and librarian. She taught in Illinois at St. Francis Academy and the College of St. Francis (Joliet); Sacred Heart, Englewood; St. Clement and St. Francis de Sales (Chicago); and Alleman High School (Rock Island). She taught also in Ohio at St. Peter High School (Mansfield); St. Procop High School (Cleveland); and Marybrook Academy (Maumee). Besides qualifying as a teacher of the liberal arts by earning her Master's degree at De Paul University, she also became a Master in Musicology, graduating from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. Many of her years spent in the classroom were dedicated to training students to enjoy and become adept at music. She served also for two years as Diocesan Education Consultant for the diocese of Columbus. The last 9½ years of her active ministry were spent as librarian at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Lockport, IL.

Upon her ninth anniversary at the seminary library, the school paper, AURION, honored Sister Lilian with its lead article. Among both her peers and the young seminarians, she was acclaimed "a unique person--sharp, witty, competent, and indeed a dedicated ecclesial woman in the truest sense of the term." The article also noted that "Sister was regularly seen at prayer in the back corner seat of chapel." Thus her dedication to her work for the benefit of her students was coupled throughout her long life with her fidelity to prayer.

Sister Lilian is survived by one sister, Sister M. Elvira, a member also of our Congregation, and one brother, Raymond, of Chicago. To both of them, to her nieces and nephews, to her other relatives, friends, and sisters in religious life, we offer our deep sympathy. The wake for Sister Lilian will be held at Our Lady of Angels from 2 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, January 17, with a Scripture Service at 3:30. At 7 o'clock that same evening, the Liturgy of Christian Burial will be celebrated. Burial will be in Resurrection Cemetery, Lockport, on Friday, January 18 at 9:30 a.m.

"May the angels lead our Sister Lilian into Paradise!"

Devotedly yours in Christ,

THE GOVERNING BOARD

