

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

October 20, 1982

Dear Sisters,

One of Mother Immaculate's most treasured ministries during these years of her retirement at OLA was praying with the dying. Whenever possible she was with a Sister during the last days and hours of her life. And so as her time approached to leave this world, many Sisters prayed with her during the last days of her life. She was never alone; continual prayers were offered until the moment of her death at 1:15 p.m. on October 19, 1982.

Mother Immaculate's long life as a woman religious spanned nearly a century. She taught on all levels of education: elementary, secondary, and college during the 33 years of her ministry in education, completing her life in this ministry as Registrar of the College of St. Francis. In 1944 her life took an entirely different bent when the Chapter elected her as General Superior, number ten in the line of succession from Mother Alfred Moes. During her term of office she added the novitiate wing to the Motherhouse, as those were the days of large postulant and novice classes. Additional residence facilities were provided for the College and finally the new St. Francis Academy was constructed, opening its doors to students at the beginning of the fall session in 1956.

Following her twelve years in office as General Superior, she served in the Central Administration as Vicaress, as well as Director of Teacher Training. Finally in 1962 Mother Immaculate "retired" to Our Lady of Angels to pursue a very active life until a few weeks ago. Soon after taking up residence there, she became interested in stamp collecting and its monetary benefit to the Congregation. "I've been collecting stamps since about 1963. It's very educational... Besides being an enjoyable hobby, it is also a way for me to continue helping people. All the proceeds from the stamps we sell go to the Brazilian missions in South America." Mother contributed a considerable amount to the Congregation annually from the hard work of sorting and selling stamps.

Mother Immaculate has been a gentle woman all her life, responding to the needs of the Church and the Congregation with zeal and love. One of her unceasing prayers was a petition for more vocations to religious life. Perhaps that will be part of her heavenly ministry--prayer for women and men to serve the Church through a life of commitment to Gospel values.

We offer to her four sisters: Mrs. Anna Powell, Mrs. Helen Peifer, Mrs. Louise Obcamp, and Mrs. Marie Cronin; her brother, Louis, and her other relatives and friends our sympathy and prayers at this time of her death. She was devoted to her namesake during life, our Mother Mary. At the age of 91, Mother Immaculate has joined the mother of Jesus, Mary, her aunt, Mother Alexander Munch, and all the faithful departed who preceded her to eternity. May hers be an eternity of singing His praises in union with them.

Sincerely,

THE GOVERNING BOARD



MOTHER M. IMMACULATE BUCKSTEGGE, OSF 568

Born: October 8, 1891 in Lincoln, IL
Baptized: "Caroline" October 17, 1891 at St. Mary Church, Lincoln, IL
Parents: Henry and Rose (Munch) Buckstegge

Postulancy: September 7, 1909
Novitiate: August 12, 1910
First Profession: August 12, 1912
Final Profession: August 12, 1918
Diamond Jubilee: August 12, 1972



Ministry:

1911-1912 St. Francis Assisi, Chicago, IL, grades 1-2
1912-1913 St. Louis, Washburn, WI, grade 1 (until March)
St. Wenceslas, Chicago, IL, grade 2 (March-June)
1913-1914 St. Joseph, Elgin, IL, grades 1-2 (until February)
St. Mary, Columbus, OH, grade 1 (February-June)
1914-1917 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, grade 1
1917-1918 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, grades 1-2 (September, and
December-June)
St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, grade 3 (October-November)
1918-1920 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, grades 1-2
1920-1921 St. Clement, Chicago, IL, grade 4
1921-1922 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, grades 1-2
1922-1926 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, High School Teacher
1926-1931 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Normal School Teacher: Novices
and Postulants
1931-1944 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL
Latin and/or English Teacher (1931-1934)
Assistant, Sisters' Scholastic Records (1931-1934)
Registrar (1934-1944)
1944-1956 General Superior of the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate,
Joliet, IL
1956-1962 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Vicarress of the Sisters of St. Francis
of Mary Immaculate, and Director of Teacher Training for the Sisters
1962-1982 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Minister to the Sick
and Dying Sisters; Coordinator of Mission Stamp Project

Died: Tuesday, October 19, 1982, at 1:15 p.m. at Our Lady of Angels
Retirement Home, Joliet
Wake: Thursday, October 21, from 2-6:30 p.m., at Our Lady of Angels
Prayer Service: Thursday, October 21, 3:30 p.m.
Mass: Thursday, October 21, 6:30 p.m.
Burial: Resurrection Cemetery, Lockport, Friday, October 22, 9:30 a.m.
from Our Lady of Angels