

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

April 7, 1982

Dear Sisters,

Sister Ann Druska, affectionately called Sister Jo Mary by so many of her friends, had suffered from a tumor behind her eye from her early days in the Congregation. This affliction eventually terminated her life on Tuesday, April 6 at 11:45 p.m. at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home. Sister Ann's health had been failing since her retirement to OLA in 1978. During these past six years she had often been near the point of death, but always rallied. In her own words she pondered this timing of death: "How long will I live? This depends on whether I have accomplished the tasks which God has assigned me. I have to touch certain people. I have to help certain people in certain ways. I have to encourage, support and console certain people." She continues: "When I have done all this, God will call saying, 'You have done that for which you were created.'" God has, indeed, called her home!

Sister Ann was a woman who received and gave love to others all her life. She came to the aspirancy from her home in Assumption Parish, Chicago, with Sister Mary Josine Minarik and Sister Mary Paul Komar; the three remained life-long friends. As they reminisce about Ann and their relationship with her these sixty-some years, they recall her as a person who loved life to the fullest. She was always an outgoing individual who could show empathy and compassion to someone in sorrow, and, on the other hand, could lighten a gloomy atmosphere with her wit and friendliness. She had the great gift of saying the right thing at the right moment, of giving the appropriate response regardless of the situation.

Her whole life in the Congregation was devoted to her service of God's people, principally through her work in the Catholic school system. Her love of children was exceptional and she had the rare talent of inspiring them to produce their best in her classes. Even in her last five years of teaching at St. Pius X, Lombard, when she suffered great discomfort from her eye, she was alert to the latest teaching techniques; her classroom was alive with the projects of her fifth and sixth graders. Not only did she serve as teacher, but she ministered as principal for several years at Sacred Heart, Hubbard Woods; St. Pascal, Chicago; and St. Ann, Lansing. According to some members of her family she had "great administrative talent and an excellent disposition for the role." Or another spoke of her as a "modern educator with an open mind." Her story would be incomplete without mentioning her six years as Congregation School Supervisor as well as councillor to the General Superior from 1962-1968.

Found among Sister Ann's memoirs was her "Last Testament to My Community." She wrote:

My dear Sisters,

"In unity there is strength." How true this is when one is stricken with a cross. The Community rises to my help and support. For this I am deeply grateful.
I want to thank each of you for the time and energy you took in serving me in a thousand ways. Only the dear Lord can repay you. This petition I present to the Lord.
I ask pardon for any unkindness I may have shown to anyone, and I forgive anyone who confronted me with any unkindness.



What better testimonial to her great love for others than her own words! We offer our sympathy to her sister, Lillian, her brothers, John, Joseph and Cyril, and her numerous nieces and nephews. God has written her name on the scroll of those who enjoy Him in eternity.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Governing Board

VITAE of Sister Ann Druska (formerly Sister Joseph Marie) 561



Born: June 29, 1913
Parents: John and Eva (Myra) Druska
Baptism: Assumption Parish, Chicago
Postulancy: September 3, 1928
Novitiate: August 12, 1929
First Vows: August 12, 1931
Final Vows: August 12, 1934
Golden Jubilee: June, 1981

Ministry: Teacher and/or Principal at:

St. Joseph, Joliet
St. Stephen, Johnstown
St. Francis Xavier, Chicago
Sacred Heart, Englewood, Chicago
Sacred Heart, Hubbard Woods
St. Pascal, Chicago
St. Ann, Lansing
St. Raymond, Joliet
St. Pius X, Lombard
St. Francis Convent--Councillor

Died: April 6, 1982 at 11:45 p.m.
Wake: April 12, 2-7 p.m. at OLA
Prayer Service: April 12, 3:30 p.m.
Liturgy of Resurrection: Monday, April 12, 7:00 p.m.
Celebrants: Rev. Joseph Shimanek
Rev. Manuel Loughran, CSV
Burial Services: Tuesday, April 13, 9:30 a.m. to Resurrection
Cemetery from OLA