

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

April 27, 1981

Dear Sisters,

Sunday morning, April 26, Sister Celine went to chapel at OLA as usual for Liturgy, but was able to participate only in the Liturgy of the Word. As the homily ended, she collapsed in chapel and died a few minutes later. She was privileged to spend the last minutes of her life contemplating the life, death and resurrection of her Lord. Although her very sudden death was a shock to all the residents of OLA, it was a singular blessing for Sister Celine as she completed her last liturgy in eternity.

Sister Celine was born on April 28, 1907 in Columbus, Ohio, to Joseph and Mary Eisel. They named their daughter after her mother, calling her Marie. After spending twenty-three years in Columbus, she departed for the convent in Joliet under the guidance of her aunt, Sister Mary of the Angels, and accompanied by her two friends, Sister Teresine and Sister David. That memorable day, September 8, 1930, was the beginning of her long life as a Sister of St. Francis. She made her first vows on August 12, 1933 and her final vows on the same day three years later.

Sister devoted the greater part of life as a woman religious to the ministry of education. She spent forty years in Congregation schools: St. Francis Academy, Joliet; SS. Peter and Paul and Sacred Heart High Schools, Chicago; St. Procop High School, Cleveland; St. Patrick High School, Kankakee; and St. Francis de Sales Grade School, Chicago as principal. From 1963-1970 she served the Sisters of OLA as superior, and her last ministry was to GAH as Business Clerk. She retired to OLA just four months ago.

Two commentaries eulogize Sister Celine more appropriately than many words. In the January 26, 1975 St. Francis de Sales Parish bulletin, the pastor wrote: "Sister Celine has served our school well. Our entire parish family owes our deepest gratitude to her for her loyalty, service, and hard (often thankless) work. But even more, we thank God and her for the genuine concern and generous love she has given us." And again, on Sunday morning shortly after the announcement of her death to the children at GAH, one child remarked to Sister Elaine Murphy: "Something is going to make you very sad today. Sister Celine died." Such comments from those she served give eloquent recognition to her kindly loving character.

The Mass of the Resurrection for Sister Celine will be offered on her 74th birthday, April 28, at 7 p.m. in the chapel at OLA. All her friends are invited to the prayer service for her at 3:30 p.m. that day, and to the burial on April 29. The funeral cortege will leave OLA at 9:30 a.m. for Resurrection Cemetery in Romeoville.

Sister Celine is survived by one sister, Mrs. John (Laurene) Loeffler, of Memphis, Tennessee, as well as by numerous nieces and nephews. We offer all her relatives and friends our deepest sympathy. With the Alleluias of Easter still ringing in our ears, we recommend Sister Celine to the mercy of the Risen Lord. There can be no more beautiful way to celebrate the feast of Easter than in Heaven with the Risen Lord.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

THE GOVERNING BOARD

ALLELUIA-
 ALLEL

