

For those who have been faithful, O Lord,

Life is not ended, but merely changed.

January 3, 1984

Dear Sisters,

Although at the time Sister Charles Marie Fahrenbach did not realize it, she completed her active ministry on this earth around Thanksgiving time. Her service to the Congregation during her last six weeks was one of prayer and great suffering. In fact, she voiced to us several times that she was suffering for the Chapter that its work might be blessed and profitable.

From Thanksgiving until yesterday when she departed this earth, Sister Charles Marie was at St. Joseph Hospital, then the Hospice section of St. Joseph's, and finally at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home. Her condition continued to weaken during those weeks, but her prayer was always that the Lord's Will be done. During the last couple of days she was pleading with the Lord to come and take her to Himself. He heard this prayer and answered it at 6:15 p.m. on January 2, 1984. Her Happy New Year has turned into a Happy Eternity.

There are numerous thumb-nail sketches one can draw about the life and activities of Sister Charles Marie. From the day she was a second-year novice she had been involved in education pursuits in the Congregation. She taught every grade from one through eight, as well as served as principal of various elementary schools. She was, therefore, the perfect choice for Chair of the Education Department at the College of St. Francis where she was able to train future teachers, using her rich background and her educational training. Her life in education included involvement in the Motherhouse Tutoring Program and Adult Education at Westmont. She also shared her expertise as a member of the Joliet Diocesan School Board from 1966-1969.

Sister Charles Marie was beloved by the persons who lived and worked with her. For many years she served as local superior in our convents. One Sister remarked to her a few weeks ago that she was the best superior she had ever had. This pleased Sister Charles Marie who always listened and responded with respect to the opinions of others. She was elected as Area Coordinator in 1968, a member of the first Governing Board which had the unenviable task of inaugurating a new central governance design in the Congregation that year. Once again her leadership ability and kindness to the Sisters served her well during those pioneer days.

The last sketch finds Sister at the House of Prayer during the past five years. There she was busy as both Martha and Mary. One could find her in the kitchen preparing a delicious dinner for twelve, at the door serving as hostess for the numerous guests, or in the chapel deep in prayer and contemplation. She had the ability of being a very human "saint"--close to God, finding Him not only in chapel but in all the persons who crossed her path each day.

Her constant stance in life was to take everything to God, not to trust her own judgment unaided by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This attitude brought her the "freedom of the children of God." She is in Heaven now, preparing a place for her only remaining family member, Sister Christine. This was a pact that they shared--that the first one to Heaven would dust off the cloud in readiness for the other. We offer our prayers to Sister Christine that they will in some way succor her in her loss, but in the deepest part of her being she is sustained by the knowledge that her sister is in the presence of God.

Sincerely in Him,

THE GOVERNING BOARD



SISTER CHARLES MARIE FAHRENBACH

Born: October 17, 1905, Chicago, IL
 Parents: Carl and Maria (Buhr) Fahrenbach
 Baptized: Marie on November 12, 1905
 St. Francis Xavier Church, Chicago, IL

Postulancy: February 3, 1924
 Novitiate: August 12, 1924
 First Profession: August 13, 1926
 Final Profession: August 13, 1929
 Golden Jubilee: June, 1976

**MINISTRY:**

1925-26 SS. Peter and Paul, Leonore, IL, Grades 1, 2, 3
 St. Pascal, Chicago, IL, Grades 1, 2
 1926-44 St. Bernard, Joliet, IL, Grades 1-8
 1938-44: Superior, Principal
 1944-51 Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL, Grades 7, 8
 1951-56 St. Francis de Sales, Toledo, OH, Superior, Principal
 1956-68 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, Dept. of Education
 1968-72 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Area Coordinator
 1972-73 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Executive Housekeeper
 and Director of Tutorial Program
 1973-75 St. Joseph, Elgin, IL, Principal
 1975-76 St. Francis Academy Sisters' Residence, Joliet, IL,
 Coordinator
 1976-78 Holy Trinity Convent, Westmont, IL, Coordinator, Teacher
 in the College of DuPage Adult Education Program
 1978-83 St. Clare House of Prayer, Kankakee, IL
 1978-79: Temporary Member
 1979-83: Core Member

Died: Monday, January 2, 1984 at Our Lady of Angels Retirement
 Home, Joliet, IL
 Age: 78 years old; in religious life 59 years
 Wake: Wednesday, January 4, 2-7 p.m. at Our Lady of Angels
 Prayer Service: Wednesday, January 4, 3:30 p.m.
 Mass of Resurrection: Wednesday, January 4, 7:00 p.m.
 Burial Services: Thursday, January 5, 10 a.m. from Our Lady of Angels
 to Resurrection Cemetery, Lockport