

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

January 30, 1985

Dear Sisters,

"She was a totally gracious woman and fine teacher." This comment is, I believe, an accurate summary of the many responses of those who were notified of the death of Sister Rita Clare Flynn on January 28th.

Born on August 28, 1903 in Winneka, Illinois, and christened Virginia Elizabeth, she grew up on Chicago's north shore and was a member of Sacred Heart Parish in Hubbard Woods. In 1923, Sister Rita Clare entered the Congregation, professing her first vows in August 1925.

Though soft-spoken and somewhat reserved during her lifetime, Sister Rita Clare exerted a great influence over the minds and hearts of her students in the schools where she taught, and also over the many she tutored during these last 20 years at Our Lady of Angels. It was altogether obvious by the warm smile and gleam in her Irish eyes, how delighted Sister Rita Clare was in being able, in spite of the debilitating arthritis which crippled her body, to continue to share, to communicate and to teach the math and physics she loved so well.

The College of St. Francis was the scene of 20 years of teaching ministry where she was a vital and active member of the Department of Mathematics and Physics. When the progressing arthritis made mobility so much more difficult, Sister continued her service at the information desk and bookstore. Many of us fondly recall her friendly greeting as we passed through the halls of CSF.

It's more than likely that Sister Rita Clare never really knew of all the inspiration and encouragement she offered to so many others as they struggled to accept the relatively minor handicaps that are so much a part of our human condition. One could hardly observe her courage and enthusiasm without feeling that those average minor setbacks were somewhat insignificant by comparison.

We extend our sympathy to Sister Rita Clare's brother-in-law, Peter, and to the other members of the family, as well as to Sister Beatrice Schiller, a friend from childhood days in Winnetka.

This summer of '85 would have marked a time of special celebration for Sister Rita Clare since she, with her seven classmates, would have been honored for their 60 years as professed members of the Sisters of Saint Francis.

Though she will be missed, we know that already now she celebrates in joy and jubilee the realization of the fact that she has "captured the prize" spoken of in tonight's readings.

May she now know eternal joy and peace in the presence of the God she loved and served so faithfully.

Sincerely,

The Governing Board



Sister M. Rita Clare Flynn (Virginia) 595

Born: August 28, 1903
Parents: William and Josephine (Gieseler) Flynn
Postulancy: January 5, 1923
Novitiate: August 12, 1923
1st Profession: August 12, 1925
Final Profession: August 12, 1928
Died: Monday, January 28, 1985 at 8:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Angels



Ministry:

1925 - 1927 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, Mathematics and Science
1927 - 1931 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Mathematics and Science
1931 - 1935 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, Mathematics and Science
1935 - 1962 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, Dept. of Mathematics and Physics, Book Store
1962 - 1965 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Switchboard
1965 - 1985 Our Lady of Angels,

Wake: Wednesday, January 30, 1985 from 2 - 7 p.m. with prayer service at 4:15 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Wednesday, January 30, 1985 at 7 p.m.

Burial: Thursday, January 31, 1985 from OLA at 9 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery

Survived by sister-in-law, Josephine Flynn and Brother-in-law, Peter Nilson

