

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

October 29, 1983

Dear Sisters,

Just a month ago Sister Salome Gilmore was walking the halls of OLA and assisting Sister Ellen Clare in her stamp work. Breathing was becoming increasingly difficult, though, and finally Sister Salome was confined to the infirmary, leaving her room only with assistance. During her last few days of life she was not able to take any sustenance. But death always comes as a shock as it did for the residents of OLA and particularly for Sister Ellen Clare when they learned that Sister Salome died peacefully at 9:15 p.m. on Friday, October 28.

Sister Salome was named Anna by her parents at the time of her birth in Springfield, Illinois. She was one of twelve children, but her older sister, Margaret, took care of the family (their parents were both deceased), allowing Anna to enter the convent at the age of 24. Two years later Margaret followed, becoming Sister Jane Frances, and eventually Sister Ellen Clare joined her two sisters (1924).

Sister Salome was known and loved by hundreds of Sisters in the Congregation, and by numberless persons whom she served during her many years in the elementary schools of the Congregation. Her first sixteen years of service were devoted to teaching at St. Raymond's in Joliet. During all those years she worked with Fr. Francis Scanlon, her pastor. He wrote to her after she departed for Shelby: "Sister, I am grateful to you for every act of kindness, and the name for these various acts in "Legion"...I have missed you ever since you left. Your place has never been filled. I would love to have you here for my few remaining years, were that possible." These words seem a fine summary of the sentiments of so many who knew the love, kindness and reliable service of Sister Salome.

But that is not the last tribute given the outstanding work of Sister Salome. In 1965 as she was preparing to leave St. Ann's, Lansing, Illinois, she was honored for her contribution in the field of education by the Illinois Association of Classroom Teachers. Probably more touching to Sister Salome were the poems presented her by her fourth graders as she completed her last of fifteen years at St. Ann's. A typical example of the sentiments of the children is the following:

Thank you, Sister Salome, for being nice,
And always giving us the right advice,
You're someone we'll never forget
You tell us to be nice and neat
You're a nun nothing can beat.

During her semi-retirement at the Motherhouse, Sister Salome assisted Sister Ellen Clare for nine years in the Reading Center. Just a little over a year ago, both retired to OLA, but with another important task to perform for the Congregation--directing the stamp project.

She leaves here on earth her many friends, but none will miss her more than her beloved sister, Sister Ellen Clare. To Sister Ellen Clare, and to all her nieces and nephews we offer our sympathy and prayers. Our faith tells us that those who instruct others unto justice shall shine as stars for all eternity. Sister Salome has, indeed, reached her moment of stardom.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

THE GOVERNING BOARD



SISTER M. SALOME GILMORE, OSF (ANNA) 579



Birthdate: March 16, 1897, Springfield, IL
Parents: Thomas and Margaret (Haye) Gilmore

Postulancy: September 5, 1921
Novitiate: August 12, 1922
First Profession: August 12, 1924
Final Profession: August 12, 1927
Golden Jubilee: June, 1974

Ministry:

1923-39 St. Raymond, Joliet, IL, grades 2, 4, 5, 7, also Superior 1933-39

1939-45 Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, OH, grades 7, 8, Superior, Principal

1945-50 Immaculate Conception, Toledo, OH, Grade 8, Superior

1950-65 St. Ann, Lansing, IL
1950-56: Grade 8, Superior, Principal
1956-59: Grade 8; Principal
1959-65: Superior, Principal

1965-69 St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL, Superior, Principal

1969-73 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Local Coordinator

1973-82 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, semi-retired, Office Assistant, St. Francis Reading Center

1982-83 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, retired

Died: Friday, October 28, 1983, at 9:15 p.m. at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL

Age: 86 years old; in religious life 61 years

Wake: Sunday, October 30, 1983, 2-7 p.m. at OLA

Prayer Service: Sunday, October 30, 1983, 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Resurrection: Sunday, October 30, 1983, 7:00 p.m.

Burial Services: Monday, October 31, 1983, 9:00 a.m. from OLA to Resurrection Cemetery, Lockport