

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

February 27, 1981

Dear Sisters,

Wednesday afternoon, February 25, I visited with Sister Liboria Girard at St. Joseph Hospital. She was very talkative that day, reminiscing happily about her years in community. She stated at least twice that she was ready to die. This morning at 6:30 the Lord accepted the offering of her life and took her to Himself.

Sister Liboria was born November 19, 1893, in Columbus, Ohio to John and Rosa Girard. She grew up in German Village on Columbus' south side. On December 8, 1914 at age 21 she entered the postulancy, making her final profession on August 12, 1921. During most of her 65 years in religious life she devoted her energies to the ministry of education, either by teaching, being prefect of children at Marybrook Academy and Our Lady of Mercy, Granville, or serving in the capacity of principal, until she retired to the Motherhouse in 1969 and Our Lady of Angels in 1973. Sister taught all the grades from one through twelve at many of our Congregation schools: St. Boniface, St. Clement and SS. Peter and Paul in Chicago; Immaculate Conception and St. Mary's in Columbus; St. Michael, Worthington; and St. Peter's, Mansfield. During her four years of semi-retirement at the Motherhouse, she was very involved in the Activity Department. As her strength diminished, she departed for Our Lady of Angels where she lived the last eight years of her long and fruitful life.

Sister Liboria was a person with a cheerful disposition, good-hearted in offering her services to others. She was grateful all her life for her religious vocation which she received, she felt, at the Reception of her older sister, Sister Rosella. At the time of her Diamond Jubilee on June 18, 1977 she wrote: "I did all I could to be what God had planned for me. With 53 years in the classroom, teaching grades one to twelve was my pride, joy and happiness. God be praised!"

Those words, "God be praised," are the most fitting tribute we can give Sister Liboria. In 1975 Sister signed papers donating her body to science upon her demise. She wished to help medical personnel advance their knowledge. Consequently, there will be no visitation or wake service. A Memorial Liturgy will be celebrated for Sister Liboria on Monday evening, March 2, 1981 at 7 p.m. in Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home chapel with Rev. Manuel Loughran, CSV, officiating. The relatives of Sister Liboria are planning a Memorial Liturgy to be offered in Columbus, Ohio, but the plans are not finalized at this time.

We offer our sympathy to Sister Rosella who has lived to bury five of her brothers and sisters. She is the only living member of her immediate family. May God grant her the consolation that only He can give at the time of death. Her faith assures her that Sister Liboria is in Heaven, released from her sufferings, and enjoying the rewards of her life of dedication to the Lord.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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