

For those who have been faithful, O Lord,

is not ended, but merely changed.

June 24, 1988

Sister Susan was a person of deep roots who wanted more than anything to enjoy a homecoming. God granted that desire by her homecoming to Johnstown, Pennsylvania in 1970, her homecoming to Our Lady of Angels ten days ago, and her ultimate homecoming the early morning hours of June 23rd when she went home to the Lord.

Sister Susan was proud of being one of the 80 plus Sisters of our Congregation, some of whom are here today, who came to the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate from Johnstown, Pennsylvania. She was also very definite about her Slovak roots and the fact that her particular parish was St. Stephen. Sister Susan told that her family roots reached back to 1870 and that they had lived through the many floods which that community experienced. She said, "I spent my most happy years there." Probably that happiness came from Susan's feeling that she could be of some service to her brother Frank who died there recently.

In a way Sister Susan's ministry to her family ended with Frank's death and another homecoming was ahead. The concern of the Sisters in Johnstown, especially Sister Lucia and Sister Cora with whom she lived, encouraged Sister Susan herself to ask to come home. She wrote to Sister Kathleen Rossman, "Now that my whole family is gone, I am ready to go back to Joliet. I would appreciate it so much if you would arrange for me to go to Our Lady of Angels. I feel that I could be of some slight service." Sister Susan wanted to be of service. Her beautiful penmanship, her strictness with the children in the classroom - "so they would become better," - her dusting and cleaning were all signs of her desire to bring order into a world which to her many times seemed disorganized and out of control.

God granted Sister Susan a lively homecoming. She was greeted by loving Sisters, nurses, classmates. She enjoyed the prayers, the exercises in the Craft Room, the walking outdoors, the food. She had not expected this hard decision to result in such abundance. Her work was over.

But this homecoming was only a preview of a greater one. God knew that once Sister Susan found order and calm, she would be ready to return to Him. She had prayed often and had many devotions. She loved to say that prayer of Christmas which was to be said from November 30th, the feast of St. Andrew, until Christmas Eve. She was confident that Mary who gave birth to Jesus "in a stable in Bethlehem at midnight in the piercing cold" would grant the request of those who prayed this prayer fifteen times a day. She said during her journey to Joliet that Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were her best friends -- and when she arrived at Our Lady of Angels a picture of the Holy Family greeted her in her room.

Father Golias, her pastor, blessed Sister Susan, her drivers, and their car just before the journey to Joliet. That blessing accompanied her home to Our Lady of Angels and ultimately to heaven. Sister Susan's work is ended; things are in good order; and security, peace and abundant kindness are hers forever. No doubt in the heavenly kingdom she will smile that characteristically sweet smile which seemed to say with surprise. "I did not know you cared so much. Thank you."



SISTER M. SUSAN KORCHNAK O.S.F. (Helen)

Born: April 19, 1910
 Parents: Paul and Anna (Democko) Korchnak
 Postulancy: February 2, 1932
 Novitiate: August 12, 1932
 First Profession: August 12, 1934
 Final Profession: August 12, 1938
 Died: Thursday, June 23, 1988 at 6:25 a.m. at
 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home

**Ministry:**

1934 - 1935 St. Stephen, Streator, IL, Grade 2
 1935 - 1937 Sacred Heart, Chicago, IL, Grades 1 & 2
 1937 - 1940 SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL, Grades 4 & 5
 1940 - 1945 St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL, Grade 4
 1945 - 1947 St. Mary, Des Plaines, IL, Grade 2
 1947 - 1948 St. Francis Assisi, Chicago, IL, Grade 6
 1948 - 1949 St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, grade 4
 1949 - 1950 St. Stephen, Streator, IL, Grade 2
 1950 - 1951 Holy Family, Bayfield, WI, Grades 3, 4, and 5
 1951 - 1961 St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA, Grades 3 and 5
 1961 - 1964 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Grade 4
 1964 - 1968 St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL, Grade 4
 1968 - 1969 Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH, Grade 3
 1969 - 1970 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Studying
 1970 - 1973 St. Casimir Extension, Johnstown, PA, Sub. Teaching
 1973 - 1975 West End Catholic, Johnstown, PA, Sub. Teaching
 1975 - 1976 Conenaugh Catholic Assumption Extension, Conenaugh, PA
 Teaching
 1976 - 1978 St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA, Special Ministry
 1978 - 1987 Family Residence, Johnstown, PA, Family Ministry
 1987 - 1988 St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA, Special Ministry

Wake: Friday, June 24, 1988 from 2 - 7 p.m.
 Prayer Service at 4:15 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Friday, June 24, 1988 at 7 p.m.

Burial: Saturday, June 25, 1988 from OLA at 9 a.m. to
 Resurrection Cemetery.

Survived by cousins