

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

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February 14, 1980

Dear Sisters,

The immortal exclamation of St. Augustine, "Our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee!" is realized in the fullness of its meaning by our dear Sister M. Bernard Leibold. She, who had so long lingered restlessly in her infirmary bed at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, entered into her eternal rest this morning at 11:10. She was 83 years old and in religious life 65 years.

Sister Bernard was born in Columbus, Ohio, on December 19, 1896. Her parents, William and Anna (Richter) Leibold, were parishioners of St. Mary's, Columbus, where, on January 10, 1897, she was baptized and given the name of Mary.

At the age of seventeen, in 1913, she entered our Congregation. At her reception the following August 12, while retaining her baptismal name, she was given an additional patron in St. Bernard. Like him, Sister Bernard had a lively devotion to the Mother of God. She loved to express it through the Franciscan Crown and was known to say it even twice a day. She made her first profession in 1916 and pronounced final vows in 1919.

In the early years of her active ministry, Sister Bernard engaged in domestic work at St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA; St. John, Joliet; and St. Francis de Sales and St. Boniface, Chicago. She became prefect of little boys for a year at Guardian Angel Home and then spent a year caring for the little girls at St. Mary Institute, Holy Family, in Bayfield, WI. She was ready to return to Guardian Angel Home to assume a three-decade dedication--from 1924 to 1955--to the care of little girls as their prefect.

One of our Sisters who had spent her early childhood at Guardian Angel Home said with deep affection, "Sister Bernard was the only mother I knew." The highlight of each year was the children's First Communion Day, and she spent joyful days of anticipation with the children. As a mother would do for one child, each year she curled the hair of dozens of little girls and sewed their white dresses. It was her glory also to prepare them spiritually to receive their beloved Lord for the first time. As they grew older, she taught them how to sew, sharing an art in which she served many persons throughout her lifetime.

In 1955 Sister Bernard was assigned to teach at Our Lady of Mercy in Granville, Ohio. Three years later she was missioned at the College of St. Francis, Joliet, where, for eleven years, "no service was too small for her to offer, especially at the sewing machine." In 1970 she continued her work at the Motherhouse, finally retiring to Our Lady of Angels in 1974 where she lived until this day, having celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 1976.

We offer our deep and prayerful sympathy to her two sisters, Mrs. Bernie Kriegbaum, of Warren, IN; and Mrs. Leona Williams, of Naples, FL; as well as to her nieces and nephews and to all the Sisters in the Congregation. The wake will be held at Our Lady of Angels from 2 to 7 p.m. on Friday, February 15, with a Scripture service at 3:30 p.m. and the Mass of Resurrection at 7 p.m. Burial will be in Resurrection Cemetery, Lockport, at 9:30 on Saturday morning, February 16.

May Sister Bernard enjoy rest in her Lord for all eternity!

Devotedly in Christ,

THE GOVERNING BOARD

