

*For those who have been faithful, O Lord,*

October 5, 1982

*Life is not ended, but merely changed.*

Dear Sisters,

Sister Joyce Malecki had not been feeling well for two weeks. Consequently, on a temporary basis, she had moved to the infirmary floor of Our Lady of Angels. But the Lord had a more permanent dwelling prepared for her, calling her to it shortly after breakfast on the Feast of St. Francis. After collapsing in her room, she died almost instantly, becoming the first member of the Congregation to die on October 4th.

Cecilia Malecki lived in SS. Peter and Paul Parish on the south side of Chicago until her entrance into the Congregation. The parish and school never lost their top priority in her affection. Countless times during her life she would respond to affirmation given her with the words, "Of course-- I'm from SS. Peter and Paul."

As a member of the Congregation, Cecilia Malecki was given the name Sister Gaudentia. In the late 1960's when many Sisters were changing to their baptismal names, Fr. John Spitkovsky suggested that Sister translate her name to Joyce. To all who had the privilege of knowing Sister Joyce, the relationship between her name and her life was obvious. She was a joy-filled person. The children in her classroom during her twenty-one years of teaching experienced the kindness of her presence. At Guardian Angel Home where she served for six years as prefect the children called her Grandmother--a special sign of their love for her and her devoted attention to them. And during all her remaining years of domestic work in the convents, she was never divorced from the children of the schools. Her pockets never failed to produce candy for the little ones, particularly when she visited families in their homes.

Sister Joyce diffused joy to her surroundings. She was basically a happy person, and engulfed the Sisters with whom she shared community in her peaceful and quiet atmosphere. Never an unkind word crossed her lips. She greeted her "neighbors" who dropped off fruit and vegetables with the response, "God bless you and increase your store, and put it in your heart to give us more." They enjoyed her rhyme, but most of all her gracious response to their generosity. She had the knack of making everyone feel important and worthwhile, probably because she felt that way about herself and others. She loved to teach, but entered into her ministry of food service with equal enthusiasm.

Sister Joyce will be missed by the Sisters at Our Lady of Angels, by her relatives, and by all who called her friend. To all who grieve at this time of her death we offer our sympathy and prayers. Her special patron during life was St. Joseph. At this time of her death he interceded for her so that she escaped the suffering of a lingering illness. Without a doubt, he has introduced her to the heavenly courts where she can express eternally the joy she felt during this life. Now she is united to the Source of her joy. May she rest in the peace and the joy of His Presence.

Sincerely,

The Governing Board



SISTER JOYCE MALECKI, OSF 567  
(formerly Sister M. Gaudentia)



Born: November 15, 1894, Chicago, IL  
Baptized: "Cecilia" on November 29, 1894  
Parents: John and Antonia (Urbanovicz) Malecki  
Postulancy: February 12, 1914  
Novitiate: August 12, 1914  
First Vows: August 12, 1916  
Final Vows: August 12, 1919  
Diamond Jubilee: June, 1976

Ministry:

1915-16 Holy Cross, Joliet, IL (Grade 1)  
1916-29 St. Wenceslas, Chicago, IL (Grades 1-3)  
1929-32 Immaculate Conception, Kankakee, IL (Grades 1-4)  
1932-36 Holy Family, Bayfield, WI (Grades 4-5)  
1936-54 Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL (Prefect 6 years;  
Food Service 12 years)  
1954-57 Holy Family, Bayfield, WI (Domestic Work)  
1957-58 Our Lady of Mercy, Granville, OH (Domestic Work)  
1958-63 SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL (Domestic Work)  
1963-69 Assumption, Chicago, IL (Domestic Work)  
1969-72 Our Lady of Grace, Muskegon, MI (Domestic Work)  
1972-78 St. Michael, Brunswick, MI (Domestic Work)  
1978-82 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL

Died: Monday, October 4, 1982, at 9:15 a.m. at Our  
Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet

Wake: Wednesday, October 6, 2-7 p.m. at OLA  
Prayer Service: Wednesday, October 6, 3:30 p.m.  
Funeral Mass: Wednesday, October 6, at 7 p.m.  
Burial Services: Thursday, October 7, 9:30 a.m. from OLA to  
Resurrection Cemetery, Lockport

Survived by: Several nieces and nephews