

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

9
May 8, 1980
Friday

Dear Sisters,

One of our beloved Golden Jubilarians of this year has been invited by our Lord to celebrate her anniversary of profession with Him in heaven. Sister Clara Ann Meehan died this afternoon at 2:45 in the infirmary of Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home. Shortly before her death, at the conclusion of the prayers for Sister, the chaplain comforted the Sisters who were present, reminding them of the perpetual bond that links members of a religious Congregation to one another. It was, in fact, an ideal of Sister Clara Ann to live a life of fidelity to God and to her Sisters. The many letters as well as visits of Sisters and family members attest to the fact that more than a few persons called her "friend."

Sister Clara Ann was born on January 24, 1908, of James and Elizabeth (Collet) Meehan in Des Plaines, Illinois. Although her education was received in public schools of Des Plaines, she was attracted to the Franciscan life of the Sisters who taught in the parish school of St. Mary's. She had been active in St. Mary's Parish where she had been baptized and confirmed. On September 5, 1927, at the age of nineteen, she became a postulant in our Joliet Franciscan Community, receiving the name of Sister M. Alban upon her entrance into the novitiate on August 12, 1929--the name by which most of her former students fondly remember her. On the Feast of St. Clare, 1930, she pronounced her first profession of vows; three years later, this same feast was chosen to be the day of celebration of Sister's perpetual profession.

For 49 years, Sister Clara Ann taught in the primary grades. Twenty-two years were devoted to teaching little children in the Ohio schools of Immaculate Conception, Columbus; St. Peter, Mansfield; Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby; and St. Francis de Sales, Toledo. The other twenty-seven years found Sister in the primary classrooms of Illinois schools--St. Clement, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Francis de Sales, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and St. Boniface, Chicago; Guardian Angel Home, Joliet; Immaculate Conception, Kankakee; St. Mary, Mt. Vernon; St. Joseph, Manhattan; St. Pius X, Lombard; and St. Mary, Des Plaines. Former students recall her as a smiling, happy teacher, whose joyfulness of spirit was conveyed to those whose lives she felt privileged to influence. In 1979, ill health forced Sister's retirement. She came to Our Lady of Angels where she died in the 73rd year of her life and the 52nd year of her religious life.

To the family of Sister Clara Ann as well as to her jubilarian classmates and other friends, we offer our deep sympathy. Sister is survived by three sisters, Elizabeth Leider, of Bensenville, Illinois; Margaret Meehan, of La Rose, Illinois; and Catherine Talmerio, of Fairview Park, Ohio; and two brothers, Thomas, of Des Plaines, Illinois; and Robert, of Florida. May the Lord comfort each of them.

The wake for Sister Clara Ann will be held at Our Lady of Angels on Sunday, May 11, from 2 to 7 p.m., with a prayer service at 4 p.m. and the Mass of Resurrection at 7 p.m. Burial will be in Resurrection Cemetery, Lockport, on Monday, May 12, at 9:30 a.m.

Devotedly in Christ,
The Governing Board

ALLELUIA
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