

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

December 30, 1977

Dear Sisters,

Just a day after the death of Sister Rosaria, her classmate, Sister M. Justa Peter died of a massive stroke in the infirmary of Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home at 5:30 Thursday, December 29, 1977. She was 83 years old and had been a Franciscan Sister for 57 years.

Born in Quincy, Illinois, of Charles Peter and Louisa Blickhan Peter, on November 15, 1894, she received the name of Helen at her Baptism three days later in St. Anthony Church in Quincy. In 1919, at the age of 25, she became a postulant in our Congregation; she was received into the novitiate on August 12, 1920. Her First Vows were spoken in 1922, and she made Final Profession in 1925.

For the first fifteen years of her convent life, she served as housekeeper at the Motherhouse, St. Francis Academy, St. Dionysius in Benton, Missouri, and St. Francis of Assisi in Red Cliff, Wisconsin. For Sister Justa, baking was an art, and her products, masterpieces to be admired and enjoyed. She began her long career in the bakery of the College of St. Francis -- 42 of her 53 years as a baker -- and through this talent ministered to hundreds of College students and their teachers. The love she had for her work was constantly evidenced in her homey and hospitable manner. Everybody loved Sister Justa, and she well deserved all the praise that she received. The last four of her 46 years at the College of St. Francis were spent in semi-retirement, during which time she celebrated her Golden Jubilee in 1972. A year later, she retired to Our Lady of Angels to continue her spirit of cheerfulness until her final illness.

Sister Justa was one of ten children. Her brothers Urban, Ralph, Wilbert, and Richard preceded her in death. She is survived by three brothers, Lawrence, Andrew, and Alfred, and two sisters, Mary and Mrs. Bonnie Vogel, as well as by numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. Through marriage, she is related to Sister Raphael Wand and Sister Clare Wand. To all the relatives and to the many Sisters who mourn her loss, especially those who served on the College staff during Sister Justa's years there, we extend our sincere sympathy.

The wake for Sister Justa will be held at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home on Monday, January 2, 1978, from 2:00 until 7:30 p.m. At 3:30 Monday afternoon, a special prayer service will be conducted and at 7:30 p.m., the Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated. The following morning, Tuesday, January 3, burial will be in Resurrection Cemetery, Lockport.

In his letter of recommendation for Sister Justa the year she entered religious life, Father Albert, O.F.M., pastor of St. Anthony Church in Quincy, wrote, "I am confident she will turn out to be a No. 1 Religious ... one of the greater Saints in the kingdom of God." Those of us who knew Sister Justa agree that Father Albert's prediction has come true.

Devotedly in Christ,

THE GOVERNING BOARD

