

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

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January 20, 1980

Dear Sisters,

Ten months ago, feeling that the "Christian Affirmation of Life" contained her sentiments exactly, Sister M. Ida Pfeffer, in the deliberate handwriting that had been hers, signed it and had it placed in her file of important papers. The formula concludes:

...I request that after my death, my family, my friends, and the whole Christian community pray for me, and rejoice with me because of the mercy and love of the Trinity, with whom I hope to be united for all eternity.

Orally also she had told her friends that for years she had prayed to enter eternity on a Sunday, the day dedicated to the Trinity. Today, Sunday, at one o'clock in the afternoon, Sister Ida peacefully died. Her Sisters surrounding her bed in the hospital room of St. Joseph's were united in prayer with her family, her friends, and the whole Christian community. Today all of us who loved Sister Ida rejoice with her as she begins an eternity of union with the Triune God.

Sister Ida was born 78 years ago on December 21, 1901, in Seymour, Illinois. Her parents, Henry W. and Lena (Wilhelm) Pfeffer, chose the name of Mary Cecilia for her christening in St. Boniface Church, Seymour. From St. Joseph Parish, Pesotum, she entered our Congregation at the age of 18 in 1920, pronouncing First Vows in 1923 and Final Vows in 1926. With her classmates, Sister Ida celebrated her Golden Jubilee in 1973.

Ministry during Sister Ida's almost 59 years of religious life included 50 years in the field of education as elementary teacher, as language and science instructor on the secondary level, and as principal. Twenty-two years were devoted to the students at St. Peter High School, Mansfield. She served also at St. Francis de Sales and St. Clement, Chicago; St. John the Baptist and St. Francis Academy, Joliet; and St. Matthew, Champaign. In 1972 Sister Ida retired at the Motherhouse, offering her sewing talents to the activities program and fulfilling the duties of local house treasurer. She was beloved among the Sisters at the Motherhouse, and it is with a deep sense of loss that we saw illness force her to enter the infirmary of Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home six weeks ago and to St. Joseph Hospital the last two weeks where many blood transfusions failed to restore her health. Sister will be missed for her fidelity among us to prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, for her geniality, for her constant willingness to meet the needs of Sisters who asked her help.

The wake for Sister Ida will be held at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home on Monday, January 21, from 2 to 7 p.m. with a special scripture service at 3:30 p.m. The same day at 7 p.m., the Mass of Resurrection will be concelebrated. Burial will be in Resurrection Cemetery, Lockport, on January 22 at 9:30 a.m.

Sister Ida is survived by three sisters, Elizabeth (Mrs. Cletus Pilgrim), of Rantoul, IL; Martha (Mrs. Elmer Schurg), of Sadorus, IL; and Margaret (Mrs. Joseph Tempel), of Pesotum, IL; and two brothers, William, of Pesotum, IL, and Joseph, of Champaign, IL, as well as nieces, nephews, and cousins. Sister Aurea Hausman, Sisters Illuminata and Audrey Kappes--all of our Congregation--and Sister Adelaide Pfeffer, SSND, are her cousins. To all--her relatives, her close friends, her former students, and her Sisters, especially the members of the Motherhouse community, we offer sympathy.

On this Sunday, the Lord's Day, may the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, welcome Sister Ida for all eternity!

Devotedly yours in Christ,

THE GOVERNING BOARD

