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SISTER M. PULCHERIA, O.S.F.
June 27, 1968

Sister Jeannette - Sister Genevieve - Sister Pulcheria -- they are together forever now. Sister Pulcheria left Our Lady of Angels early Thursday morning, June 27th, just ten days after Sister Genevieve. The three Charter Members of Our Lady of Angels must have had a grand reunion at the throne of God!

Those of us who were around for Jubilee Day two years ago, will never forget Sister Pulcheria. It was the first Jubilee she was able to celebrate with the Community. Sixty years after she first said, "I vow to Almighty God," Sister Pulcheria, erect, poised, a little slow of step, to be sure, but glowingly happy, reaffirmed the promise made in the springtime of life.

At 21, she could not have guessed the complexities that life would hold for her, nor the sombre path she would often travel before life closed on a grey June morning, sixty-two years later. But on her Diamond Jubilee Day, surrounded by her Sisters, basking in their devotion and very real concern, Sister Pulcheria had no regrets.

She took part in all the day's festivities. She made a personal tour of that part of the Motherhouse with which she had been most familiar in the long ago. She inspected Sister Ancilla's bakery, noted the changes that had been made, and remarked how she had done the baking when she "was here." That baking, according to reports of those who knew it first hand, was "Excellent -- she was an excellent baker!" Sister Pulcheria would probably have agreed.

Her memory was phenomenal. She identified persons at once by name, and always with the family name appended. It was "Sister Julia Lager -- Sister Eucheria Ellis -- Sister Lucina Gier." But it was not only those from the past whom she remembered. The Sisters of the present were just as real and just as readily identified, once she knew them.

It was only two weeks ago that Sister Pulcheria left the active circle at OLA. Her heart, getting more and more tired, finally forced her to bed. Wednesday evening she told Sister Rosarita, "I don't think I'll be here tomorrow." And though she did get through the night, before seven o'clock, Sister Pulcheria's prediction had been verified. Her Eternal Now had begun.

It was a simple ending. There was no great struggle, just the labored breathing and finally, one last great breath. Sister Pulcheria did not fight death -- nor was she afraid of dying. Life had exacted a heavy tribute from her -- but Death was kind. At the end it was all so easy -- everyone was so care-full. And beyond, her friends were waiting, and the Lord and His Mother were standing by. And at Our Lady of Angels, the Community Mass was offered for her as she lay in the peace of her dying.

This is just a personal note, Sister Pulcheria: Those of us who met you only briefly did not get a chance to be etched into your memory. But in the scope of vision now opened before you, remember us now -- for we loved you.

GOD GRANT YOU REST ETERNAL!

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