

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

July 20, 1986

Dear Sisters and Associates,

Born, baptized and raised in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, Sister Tarcisius Welker has been described as a woman ahead of her time.

When she entered the Sisters of St. Francis, Sister Tarcisius wrote that it didn't matter what kind of assignment she would get, but she put her whole heart and soul into teaching and school administration. In 1971 when she summarized her work experiences, she said 12 years elementary school, 14 years high school and 30 years principal of grade and high school. Her Bachelor and Master's degrees were from DePaul University but she also attended the College of St. Francis, Loyola and Catholic University of America.

In 1959 a Mansfield, Ohio newspaper featured her after her completion of 46 years as teacher. She was quoted as saying, "I wouldn't change one minute of it. My greatest delight is working with children." She also said, "Now I am teaching the children of the children I taught." The writer says, "Sister recounted with joviality and vivacity not often seen in mature educators. Her youthful appearance and boundless energy add further to the incredibility of her long service record." Sister Tarcisius continued in active ministry for seventeen years after that!

Sisters who were teachers when she was principal praise her leadership style. She gave the teachers confidence, treating them as adults and promoting innovative methods of teaching.

On the personal side, "Tarc," as she is called by many, was an avid reader. She would not want to be disturbed when she was reading a good book. When asked to write down her "extra-curricular" interests in life, she writes, "Reading (since 4th grade)."

Sister Tarcisius took her last trip to visit family before her brother, Lawrence, died. Her good friend, Sister Michael Ann, took her on that trip. Now Sister Tarcisius was the last member of her generation of the Welker family. Her nephew, Don, and her grandnephews and grandnieces were very special to her as evidenced by the photos displayed in her room at Our Lady of Angels.

Her death came as no surprise. Perhaps a little of her wit shines through the events. Her good friend, Sister Michael Ann McDevitt, died on Wednesday. It seems like no coincidence that "Tarc" should die the next day! A trip Home!

To her good friends in the community, to her nephew, Don, and all her grandnieces and grandnephews, and to all her former students, we extend our sympathy. We celebrate the life of this good woman and together we say:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Governing Board



612 SISTER M. TARCISIUS WELKER (BEATRICE)



Born: February 2, 1895
Parents: Charles and Catherine (Bechtol) Welker
Postulancy: February 9, 1912
Novitiate: August 12, 1912
First Profession: August 12, 1914
Final Profession: August 12, 1919
Died: Thursday, July 17, 1986 at 7:35 a.m. at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home

Ministry:

1913 - 1914 Holy Family, Bayfield, WI, Grade 1
1914 - 1915 St. Louis, Washburn, WI, Grade 5
1915 - 1917 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Grades 2,3 and 5
1917 - 1924 St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Grades 5,6 and 7
1924 - 1928 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, English I & II, History, and Botany
1928 - 1929 St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL, Grade 7
1929 - 1939 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, English II, III & IV, History, Librarian
1939 - 1951 SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL, Superior and Principal English and Spanish, Librarian
1951 - 1955 St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Principal
1955 - 1956 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, Department of Education
1956 - 1962 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Superior and Principal
1962 - 1965 St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL, Superior and Grade School Principal
1965 - 1968 St. Ann, Lansing, IL, Superior and Principal
1968 - 1971 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, Coordinator, Librarian
1971 - 1976 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Librarian
1976 - 1986 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Sunday, July 20, 1986 from 2 - 7 p.m. with prayer service at 4:15 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Sunday, July 20, 1986 at 7 p.m.

Burial: Monday, July 21, 1986 from Our Lady of Angels at 9 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetary