

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

April 26, 1982

Dear Sisters,

Sister Elise Zeleznikar was hospitalized at St. Joseph Hospital in Joliet a little over a month ago with a serious heart condition and other complications. It was there that she celebrated her sixty-sixth birthday, (the hospital misjudged the day and sent a cupcake with candle a day early), and it was there that she entered into a new life in eternity. She died in the intensive care unit on Saturday, April 24, at 4:20 p.m.

She was born in Cleveland, Ohio, to Frank and Mary (Skinder) Zeleznikar who brought her to St. Lawrence Church for Baptism just nine days after her birth. Josephine, as she was called by her parents, grew up in a family of seven children, holding the position of third oldest. By the time she was sixteen and had made the decision to enter the Congregation, the family had moved to Holy Family Parish. It was the pastor of this parish who wrote her recommendation to become a religious.

During her forty-eight years in religious life she was involved in the ministry of education. During thirty-four of those years she was a teacher in the primary grades at twelve of the Congregation elementary schools. Then in 1969 she had a life-long dream fulfilled. In her own words she said: "My dream of becoming a librarian has been fulfilled. Never in all those long thirty-four years in elementary teaching did I dare to even think of such a thing. I am very happy in my new career." The last thirteen years of her life she experienced the joy of serving as a librarian in two different high schools and the College of St. Francis.

Sister Elise has always been an industrious person and reliable when given a work to perform. I believe this characteristic is exemplified during these past fifteen years of her life as she studied at Kent State in Ohio to become certified as a librarian. It was not easy to return to graduate school after a lifetime with six, seven and eight year olds, but she persevered, showing the stamina born of her lifelong dream. During her last illness she was missed at the library of CSF by students and librarians alike. Although her health allowed only part-time work, she was an integral part of the library staff, working with the purchasing of new books and in the reference department. Sister Elise was an avid reader herself, receiving much enjoyment from books.

Her family was able to visit with Sister Elise a week ago in the hospital. Fortunately, she was feeling much better and enjoyed what was to be her last visit with her relatives. We offer our sympathy to her sisters, Mrs. Therese Hoover, Mrs. Agnes Valenta, and Mrs. Marie Newell, and her brother, Edward, as well as her other relatives and friends. Since Sister Elise gave her body to science, there will be no funeral liturgy, but a Memorial Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, May 1, at 3:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Angels Chapel. May she enjoy the presence of the Risen Savior who brings joy to the hearts of all who believe in Him.

Sincerely yours,

The Governing Board





VITAE of Sister M. Elise Zeleznikar, OSF (Josephine) 563

Born: April 7, 1916 in Cleveland, Ohio
Baptized: April 16, 1916, St. Lawrence Church, Cleveland
Postulancy: September 8, 1932
Novitiate: August 12, 1933
First Profession: August 12, 1935
Final Profession: August 12, 1938

Ministry: Primary School Teacher and Librarian

1935-41	St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, Grade 2
1941-42	Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, Grades 3-4
1942-44	St. Joseph, Joliet, Grade 1
1944-47	St. Boniface, Chicago, Grade 1
1947-48	St. Procop, Cleveland, Grade 1
1948-50	St. Clement, Chicago, Grade 1
1950-53	St. Procopius, Chicago, Grade 1
1953-57	St. Mary, Rock Island, Grades 1-2
1957-59	St. Edward, Ashland, Grades 1-2
1959-61	St. Procop, Cleveland, Grade 1
1961-66	St. Paul, Joliet, Grade 1 (four years); Grade 3 (one year)
1966-69	Immaculate Conception, Columbus, Grade 3
1969-70	College of St. Francis, Joliet, Librarian
1970-75	Cleveland Central Catholic High School, Cleveland, Librarian
1975-78	Lake Catholic High School, Mentor, Ohio, Librarian
1978-82	College of St. Francis, Joliet, Librarian

Died: April 24, 1982 at 4:20 p.m.
St. Joseph Hospital, Joliet

Memorial Mass: Saturday, May 1, 1982
Our Lady of Angels Chapel
3:00 p.m.

(Body donated to science)