

MARIAN RESIDENCE

1104 Toluca Avenue
ALLIANCE, NEBRASKA 69301-2498

March 17, 1994

Dear Sisters, Relatives, and Friends of Sister Marie

During the past months it seemed that our two remaining Sisters who entered at Nonnenwerth were competing to be the first to go to heaven. Sister Susanne Neu was slowly dying of congestive heart failure when Sister Marie Creuels had an acute heart attack on January 24. She was confined to her bed for six weeks but slowly recovered. Sister Marie was beginning to return to community life. She was so happy to be able to come downstairs to the chapel and the dining room with the other Sisters. But on Sunday evening, March 13, as she sat at the table she suffered another massive heart attack. By the time the nurses on duty were called and raced down the stairs, there was no heart beat or pulse any more. They took her upstairs; our younger pastor arrived in time to help lift her body to the bed. She had received the Sacrament of the sick twice since her attack in January; she was prepared.

Sister Marie, though of Dutch ancestry, was born in Germany to Wilhelm and Katharina Plum Creuels on September 27, 1905. She attended school in Germany and entered religion at Nonnenwerth in February, 1929. Given the name of Mafalda, she later returned to her baptismal name. She professed vows at Nonnenwerth, August 15, 1930, and ten days later she came to Stella Niagara, NY, to begin a long life in God's service in this country. The duties she performed at Stella Niagara, at Holy Rosary Mission in South Dakota, in Alliance, and O'Neill, Nebraska, included those of cook, baker, housekeeper, sacristan, and portress. She was a perfectionist; whatever she did was done in a neat, orderly fashion. She was also a cheerful member of the community and a very prayerful religious.

In December, 1989, because of heart problems, she was no longer able to act as housekeeper at St. Anthony's Convent, O'Neill, NE, and was brought to Marian Residence. Sister Marie kept busy crocheting; the lovely afghans that she made were treasured gifts. She had one ready to be entered in the County Fair this year; she had won purple ribbons there more than once.

With our two pastors, Father Bryan Ernest and Father Todd Philipsen, and Father Stephen F. Deaver concelebrated Sister Marie's funeral Mass in our parish church on March 15. Father Deaver had been one of the altar boys Sister Marie trained here at St. Agnes Academy, and recalled that while she would iron altar linen he sat studying and practicing his Latin responses. He drove 275 miles across the state to pay her this last honor.

Besides her parents, one brother and three sisters preceded her in death. She has two brothers, Franz and Peter Creuels, still living in the Netherlands. We are sure that she and Sister Susanne had a joyful reunion in heaven.

Sister Marie will be missed by our Sisters here at Marian Residence. She will be in our prayers.

Your Sisters at Marian Residence.