

MARIAN RESIDENCE

1104 Toluca Avenue
ALLIANCE, NEBRASKA 69301-2498

November 3, 1993

Dear Sisters, relatives, and friends

Early on the morning of October 30, 1993, Sister Patrice McCarthy slipped quietly away to heaven. She had been failing for several months; Sisters had been keeping watch with her for a few days, and several were there when she died.

Sister Patrice was born at O'Neill, NE, to Timothy and Catherine (Sullivan) McCarthy on March 19, 1902. The youngest of nine children, she was christened Honora, but always called Nora. She graduated from St. Mary's Academy in 1922, and entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity in 1923. After professing vows in 1926, she taught in elementary schools in Columbus, OH; Charleston, WV; and Havre, MT until 1935. Her health failed, and she was sent to St. Joseph's Hospital, Minot, ND, to recover. There she began working as a receptionist, and "learned on the job" until she was qualified as a hospital administrator.

She worked in St. Joseph's Hospital, Alliance, NE; St. Mary's Hospital, Scottsbluff, NE; and St. Anthony's Hospital, O'Neill, NE; with two stints at the Marycreds Motherhouse in Denver, CO, in between. She returned to Alliance in 1985 and was active in pastoral ministry at St. Joseph Gerontology Center until it closed in 1989.

Two of Sister Patrice's sisters were also religious, Sister Helen Marie, a Dominican, and Sister Immaculata, a Franciscan. Sister Patrice was the last survivor of her immediate family, but she remained close to her nephew and nieces living in South Dakota. A visit to her family was the high point of each year for her. This year she realized that she could no longer make the trip. So they came to her during the last months for their farewell visits.

Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated for Sister Patrice in Holy Rosary Church on All Souls Day. Four priests, Fr Bryan Ernest, Fr. Todd Philipsen, Fr. Gerald Harr, and Fr. Edward Cortney concelebrated. Members of Holy Rosary choir led the singing; Sisters and members of her family took part in the Mass. The Knights of Columbus furnished pall bearers. Sisters from Denver, Holy Rosary Mission, St. Francis Mission, Manderson, SD, O'Neill, NE, and Kearney, NE were with us for the occasion. The Lord gave us a bright, sunny fall day, in the midst of very uncertain weather, to escort her to her last resting place in Calvary Cemetery. After the burial, members of the Altar Society served lunch to almost 100 people in our hall.

We will miss Sister Patrice's sunny disposition and her irrepressible Irish wit, which endured in spite of a number of serious illnesses, but we thank God that she is now beyond all suffering and at peace.

Sisters at Marian Residence