

March 2, 1993

Dear Sisters, Friends, and Relatives of Sister Emilia

After years of ill health and a long slow decline, Sister Emilia Weiler slipped quietly away to heaven at 8:50 p.m., February 22, 1993.

Sister Emilia, Christine Johanna Weiler, was born in Haarzopl, Germany on July 9, 1903, the first child of Peter Weiler and Christine (Rottgen) Weiler. Her mother died when she was still quite young. She had three brothers and four sisters. One sister, Luzie Meyer, and several nieces and nephews and their families survive her in Germanh.

Peter Weiler was an educator and school administrator; Christine followed his example. She graduated from a teachers' college in St. Mauritz, Munster, Germany, in April, 1924. In February, 1925, she entered the novitiate of our Sisters in Nonnenwerth, Germany, and received the habit in August. In May, 1926, she arrived in the United States; in August the same year she began her teaching career in Uniontown, Washington. She returned to Stella Niagara, New York, to pronounce her first vows in August, 1927, and final vows in 1930.

Her teaching career was to last 54 years, including time spent in study, and took her from coast to coast more than once.. Her fields were science and languages, and she never stopped updating and improving her knowledge. Her last 23 years of teaching were spent at St. Agnes Academy in Alliance, Nebraska, where she retired because of failing health in 1980.

Having been a stamp collector, Sister Emilia found a new field in collecting and selling stamps for the missions. She spent long hours washing, sorting, and packaging stamps, both domestic and foreign. In April, 1987, she underwent surgery for a benign tumor on her collar bone, and she never regained her strength. In November that year she began to suffer periods of unconsciousness, caused by a heart problem. These spells became longer and more frequent, affecting her memory, until she was no longer able to carry on her stamp ministry. The rest of us tried to help her; none of us had her knowledge, time, or patience. In July, 1988, we notified her contributors that they needed to send their stamps elsewhere. About 500 letters were sent to the addresses in her files; even after that we continue to receive occasional packets of stamps.

Much of these last months Sister Emilia was not aware of her surroundings. The visit of an old friend, a former student, or small children would bring a flash of awareness and pleasure.

Sister Marie Creuels and Mr. and Mrs. William Wilbrand were her links with her family in Germany.

The rosary was recited for Sister Emilia in our hall at 7:00 p.m. on February 25. Mass of the Resurrection was offered at 20:30 a.m. the next day by Father Edward Cortney, our pastor, and Father Joseph Hergarten of Gering, Nebraska. Father Edward Kunzman, a former student of Sister Emilia and now pastor at Mitchell, Nebraska, gave a moving homily. he also sang with members of the parish choir, who were directed by his mother, Agnes Kunzman.

Thirty-seven Sisters and about 125 others were present. Sister Emilia was laid to rest in Calvary Cemetery, the 94th member of our congregation to rest there.

The ladies of Holy Rosary Altar Society served lunch to about 75, in the hall, after our return from the cemetery.

Many memorials have been given to the St. Agnes Academy Foundation and to the Sisters here by her friends and former students.

May her soul and the souls of all who have gone before her rest in peace.

The following is a quotation from the cover page of her Liturgy, which was made by Sister Antonella Troshynski, O'Neill, Nebraska:

"She gave to God: first, herself with her talents, then her service to others, in special empathy with the missions."