

Red Cloud Indian School

Holy Rosary Mission

Pine Ridge, South Dakota 57770

Sept. 27, 1991

Dear Sisters,

Sister Dolorosa Reitz died on September 18, 1991 at Marian Residence in Alliance, Nebraska.

Sister Dolorosa was born in Saar-bruchen, Germany, March 23, 1899. As Francesca Maria Reitz, she entered the novitiate in Nonnenwerth and came to the United States in 1922. She was professed at Stella Niagara, August 13, 1925. Sister Dolorosa worked as a seamstress at Stella Niagara until 1930 when she came west to St. Francis Mission. Here she worked as sacristan and seamstress until 1947 when she was sent to Holy Rosary Mission, where she lived until October, 1989.

Sister Dolorosa lived a very full life and up until she left the mission, she was blessed with good health. Her talents were many and she developed them as much as she could. When there were no longer boarders at Holy Rosary to sew for, she started to make quilts for Friday night bingo prizes. When she could no longer "get those pieces to fit," she did a lot of beadwork, especially bead rosaries that she loved to give away.

Intellectually, she liked to keep up with what was going on. She read current periodicals, newspapers and books. She loved to listen to tapes and the radio. She kept up on the news through T.V. and was always alert to political and social changes in her beloved Germany.

She was a person who could think about what was going on in other parts of the world, but she also wanted to hear news about the graduates of St. Francis and Holy Rosary. She was interested in their welfare and loved to have the students come back to visit her. She had an amazing memory for people and events.

As she became more frail, she gratefully accepted the help of others, and she came to terms with the aging process, giving up what she wanted, as well as what she had. This did not come easily, and one of her hardest moments of giving was leaving Holy Rosary.

We are grateful to Sister Dolorosa for her gift of time and talents to us and for showing us how to go to God with open hands. We will miss her, but we are sure of her prayers for us.

Sincerely,

The Sisters at Holy Rosary Mission