

# MARIAN RESIDENCE

1104 Toluca Avenue  
ALLIANCE, NEBRASKA 69301

January 30, 1990

Dear Sisters, Friends and Relatives of Sister Loretta,

Sister M. Loretta (Clara) Doherty was born July 5, 1894, in Shawnee, Ohio. Her parents, Charles and Mary Doherty, died at an early age, as did her only sister. Clara lived for some years with her grandmother Doherty. When her grandmother also died, Clara was placed in an orphanage conducted by Franciscan Sisters by her father's sister, also named Mary. Meeting our Sisters in Columbus, Ohio, the young girl felt at home with them, and entered the congregation at Stella Niagara, New York, in November, 1912.

Sr. Loretta made her vows June 16, 1916, and spent a long active life as portress, sacristan, and dormitory matron. She served in convents and schools in New York, Ohio, South Dakota, and Nebraska. In 1944, she took up her duties at St. Agnes Academy in Alliance, Nebraska, and remained there, except for brief periods, until her retirement to St. Joseph's Hospital in 1973.

In August, 1987, Sr. Loretta was one of the five Sisters who moved from St. Joseph's to the newly renovated nursing care unit at Marian Residence. For much of her life, Sister suffered from emphysema; she frequently needed oxygen therapy and was often near death. During the last six weeks she lapsed into unconsciousness several times and rallied again. The gates of heaven finally opened for her; she quietly breathed her last at three P.M. on January 26, 1990.

Sr. Loretta's aunt, Mary Doherty Patterson, had a family of six children, five of whom survive. Mrs. Patterson and her children kept in touch with Sister over the years. When Sr. Loretta celebrated her Golden Jubilee in 1966, her cousins sent money to enable her to make the trip back to Ohio. For the first time she actually met her only living relatives, who took her to visit some of the scenes of her youth. Her cousins, Lelia Thompson and Bernadine Driscoll, later came to Alliance to visit with Sr. Loretta at the community. The other cousins, Theresa Moore, Herbert and John Patterson, also kept in touch and showed their love and concern up to the day of her death.

The Rosary was recited at Marian Residence on Sunday evening, January 28, and the funeral Mass was offered there at ten A.M. the following morning. Our parish priests, Fr. Ed Cortney and Fr. Don Buhrman, and Fr. Gerald Harr, a former pastor, concelebrated. Members of the parish choir led the singing. Sisters came from Denver and the missions in South Dakota to join in the services. Sister Loretta was laid to rest in Calvary Cemetery, the 93rd of our Sisters buried there.

The Sisters of St. Francis  
at  
Marian Residence