

## MARIAN RESIDENCE

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Dear Sisters, Associates, family and friends of Sister Noemi,

On June 13, 1906 a daughter was born to Michael Renda and (nee) Carmela Toronto and named Antoinette. When she was six months old, for reasons she never knew, she was placed in St. Vincent's Foundling Home in New York City. When she was about two years old she was sent out on an orphan train along with fifty-five other children. In St. Cloud, Minnesota, she was kept for a few weeks in the Cathedral High School Gym and then given to an elderly German couple from Rhame, North Dakota, named Mr. and Mrs. Carl (Rosa) Saenger. They had nine adult children. Nettie, as she was called, was instructed in the Catholic faith in their German language. When Nettie was eight years old her foster father died and four years later her foster mother died. Shortly after her foster mother's death she was briefly in a couple of foster homes and then went to the Presentation Academy in Fargo, North Dakota. After finishing High School she worked for the Bishop in Fargo before entering the School of Nursing at Sacred Heart Hospital in Havre, Montana. Before completing the diploma program Nettie entered the novitiate at Stella Niagara, New York, on August 31, 1931. At her Reception she was given the name Sister Noemi. After Profession Sister went to St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing in Alliance, Nebraska, to complete her nursing education.

As a nursing supervisor and educator Sister Noemi spent time at St. Joseph Hospital in Alliance, NE, St. Mary's Hospital in Scottsbluff, NE, St. Anthony's Hospital in O'Neill, NE, and St. Joseph's Hospital and the Sisters of St. Francis School of Nursing in Minot, ND. During those years she earned a B.S. in Nursing Education. From 1980 to 1986 she worked in Pastoral Care in Minot, North Dakota.

In the 1970's after years of not communicating with her foster family, Sister reconnected with them and with foster family friends in Rhame, North Dakota. She has one surviving foster niece and several grand nieces and nephews.

Sister Noemi's health grew slowly worse this year. She died early Sunday morning, August 29, 1999, at Marian Residence, Alliance, Nebraska. Our two pastors and a priest from a neighboring parish offered the Mass of the Resurrection for her at 10:00 a.m., September 1, 1999 in Holy Rosary Church in Alliance, Nebraska. Efforts were made to contact as many as possible of the R.N.'s in the area; a number of Sister Noemi's former students attended and took part in the service. She was laid to rest with over a hundred other Sisters of St. Francis in Calvary Cemetery, Alliance, Nebraska.

Sisters at Marian Residence