

Marian Residence
1104 Toluca
Alliance, NE 69301

Dear Sisters, Associates, Family Members and Friends,

Sister George Shoemaker died quietly on Thursday, July 29, 1999, at Marian Residence in Alliance, Nebraska. Mary Leonore Shoemaker was born July 5, 1909, in O'Neill Nebraska to Francis George and Ellen (Nellie) Joyce Shoemaker. She had a twin brother, Leonard and an older brother, Russell Joseph. She was the sole survivor.

Sister George graduated from St. Mary's Academy in O'Neill, Nebraska in 1927 and entered the convent at Stella Niagara, New York in 1929. On August 30, 1931, she made her first vows: she was then called Sister Georgella. Her teaching assignments included schools in New York, West Virginia, Ohio, North and South Dakota and Nebraska over fifty-seven years. Thirty-seven of those years were spent at St. Mary's, O'Neill.

Several times Sister came to Marian Residence for short periods because of failing health. On July 29, 1997 she came to Marian Residence to stay. Her nieces, nephews and their families visited her often in Alliance. In the fall of 1998 she felt well enough to return to O'Neill and visit with her family and friends. In February, 1999, she had the flu and never fully recovered. She had always been a great letter writer: after her death we found many envelopes addressed and stamped. Apparently she just did not feel well enough to answer the last letters she received.

A very obvious feature of Sister George's charity was her loyalty to her family. Her conviction that family is basic in human society manifested itself in her devotion to her uncles' families and more particularly to her own father's branch--her beloved nieces, nephews and their grandchildren. None of this interfered with her loyalty to her Franciscan family, her Church or her many friends. That her love embraced others, too, was evident to those that shared in her funeral ceremonies both in Alliance at Marian Residence and Holy Rosary Church on July 30 and 31 and in O'Neill at St. Patrick's Church on August 1 and 2. It may have been her prayers that caused the searing heat that we had been enduring to lift on July 30.

Immediately after the Funeral Mass in Alliance, her body was taken back to O'Neill, Nebraska for another wake and Funeral Mass. The pall bearers for the funeral Mass in St. Patrick's Church, O'Neill, on August 2, were all grand-nephews. She was laid to rest in Calvary Cemetery, O'Neill.

May she rest in peace,

Sister at Marian Residence