

MARIAN RESIDENCE

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July 30, 2011

Dear Sisters, Relatives, Associates and Friends of Sister Helena Hager OSF

On September 26, 1916 in the rural area of Anamoose, ND a baby girl, the ninth in a family of ten, was born, to Anton and Magdalena(Kraft) Hager. As an infant she was baptized into new life in Christ and named Helena Magdalena. In her early life the family moved to Minot, ND where the children attended St. Leo's School. The August after her graduation from High School she went to her sister's (Sister Leonita) Final Vows ceremony. September 7, 1935 she entered the Convent of The Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity where her sister was. The following year she received the Franciscan habit and the name Sister Ludmilla. In 1969 she returned to the use of her baptismal name, Helena.

In 1941 she received a Diploma as an RN from the School of Nursing in St. Joseph's Hospital in Minot, ND and a B.S. in Nursing from St. Mary's College, Xavier, KS in 1959. Prior to that, during the Polio Epidemic in the 1940's, she had received a Certificate for The Kenny Treatment and later became a Nurse Anesthetist after completing the program at St. John's Hospital in Springfield, IL. From 1939 until her retirement in 1977 she ministered in Hospitals in Minot, ND, O'Neill, NE, Alliance, NE, Mercy Hospital in Denver, CO and for short periods relieved other sisters in Havre, MT, Nelsonville, OH and Albuquerque, NM. Her fields of ministry were mainly Pediatrics, Labor and Delivery and Surgery. When she finally retired she was able to pursue her passion for painting. This was slowed down when a diagnosis of Macular Degeneration was made. In 2000 she moved to Marian Residence and kept working at her paintings. She had a sale of some of her paintings at an auction at Marian Residence and several pieces were on sale at a local studio.

Her sight became so poor that seeing was difficult and painting was impossible. Her hearing was gradually getting worse and there was a great decline in her health. About a year ago she suffered a stroke and gradually became worse. The Angel of Death came quietly and peacefully at 10:40 pm the evening of July 25, 2011. The Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated at 10:30 am on July 29 by Father Lou Nollette. Burial was at Calvary Cemetery along with 126 of her Religious sisters. Now Sister Helena can say Death is an act of LIFE and GLORIFICATION. She is survived by many nephews and nieces, including Theresa, Janice, Alice, Mary Lee, Joe and her Religious Community. She was preceded in death by her parents, five brothers, four sisters and an adopted sister.

Her Sisters at Marian Residence