

April, 2012

Dear Sisters, Associates, Relatives and Friends of Sister Mary Teresa;

Sister Mary Teresa Linnehan OSF died Wednesday March 28, 2012 at Marian Residence in Alliance, NE at the age of 89. She was born July 27, 1922 at Jamaica, NY to George and Teresa (Sullivan) Linnehan. Her parents had moved from the New England States to Jamaica when her father started his medical practice. To this union four children were born, three boys and one girl; the girl was baptized Mary Louise.

Upon finishing High School Mary Louise began her business career in the New York City Telephone Company. Later she received her B.S. degree in education from St John's University in New York City and her Masters degree in education from the University of North Dakota. Her degrees inspired her to leave New York and go to Holy Rosary Mission, Pine Ridge, SD to volunteer as a teacher. It was there that she met the Franciscan Sisters. During the next several years the desire to become a religious never left her. Renewal of baptismal promises was a time for her to look again what it means to follow Christ. Finally she said her "yes" to God's call. On August 13, 1973 she entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity in Denver, CO. In 1974 she was received and took the name of Sister Mary Teresa (Mary T.) The following year she professed first vows and four years later perpetual vows.

Sister Mary Teresa ministered as Principal of St Anthony's School in Denver for two years. Other Ministries were in Minot, ND, Marycrest in Denver, and back to Holy Rosary Mission. In Denver Sister Mary Teresa acted as Counselor in Emergency Housing and for men in prison.

On February 14, 2007, due to congestive heart failure she came to Marian Residence. Sister Mary Teresa became very aware of the seriousness of her illness toward the end of 2010 when she was placed on hospice. Her daily prayer was for peace of heart and mind and the ability to offer her suffering for the many needs of the world, the church, her family and her religious community. Her difficulty in breathing impeded her ability to get around with ease. Until the last few days she was able to attend Mass here at Marian Residence or receive the Eucharist which was for her not only a deepening of her union with God but was also becoming more fully one with Christ's Risen Body. She was able to come to the dining room for most meals.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her brothers John, George, Bill and a niece, Celeste Linnehan. She is survived by her nephews George (Telmi) Linnehan of Florida, James Linnehan of California, Bill (Patty) Linnehan of New York, John (Janet) Linnehan of Maryland, Frank (Kathy) Linnehan of New Jersey and niece Barbara (Terry) Smith of Maine, and numerous great nieces and nephews including John Paul (Kelly) Bigly of Wisconsin from the next generation.

The wake and funeral Mass were at Marian Residence in Alliance, NE. Many of her relatives were here for the wake. They shared memories of "Aunt Mary". The Mass of Resurrection, on April 3, was celebrated by Father Lou Nollette. Now Sister Mary Teresa has broken through the bonds that held her captive and she was able to spend Easter in Heaven. Her body was laid to rest in Calvary Cemetery.

Memorials may be given to:

Sisters of St Francis
Marian Residence
1104 Toluca Ave
Alliance, NE 69301