

Alliance, Nebraska

June 19, 1979

Dear Sisters and friends,

Following an illness of seven weeks, Sister Dolores Disch died on June 15, 1979 at 9:05 PM at St. Joseph Gerontology Center, Alliance, Ne. At 92, Sister Dolores still possessed a keen, alert mind and indomitable spirit within her fragile 4'5", 75# little body. The last three months of her life Sister Dolores suffered an increasing loss of appetite and dyspnea. April 25, 1979 she fell necessitating admission to the Center. For two weeks she had, as she said, "Her foot on the window-sill ready to fly to Heaven." However, she got better and was fairly comfortable until the last few hours before she died an easy, peaceful death.

Sister Dolores' funeral, a joyous celebration of eternal life, was held in St. Joseph Convent Chapel with Rev. Gerald Harr officiating. Some forty Franciscan Sisters from Denver, O'Neill, Harrison, Alliance, and St. Francis Mission were in attendance as well as several lay friends. Following the burial at Calvary cemetery where 68 other Franciscan Sisters are interred, our Franciscan family gathered at St. Joseph's for a dinner in honor of Sister Dolores.

A native of Buffalo, New York, Sister Dolores Disch entered religious life on August 15, 1904. Little did she dream that this initial "yes" to the Lord's invitation would be a 75 year long journey with Him and the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity.

The first thirty-seven years were spent as an educator. Of these years, twenty-five were spent at St. Mary's Academy, O'Neill, Nebraska, where as principal and head of the Normal Training Program from 1922-1942 she prepared many young women to be teachers.

Illness forced a two year "time out" period upon Sister Dolores. Then April 18, 1944 she began a new career in the health care apostolate. Of her twenty-nine years in hospital work, twenty-one were spent in St. Anthony's Hospital, O'Neill, Nebraska.

On June 26, 1973, Sister Dolores came to St. Joseph Convent, Alliance, Nebraska to spend her final years in quiet, prayerful preparation for the most important phase of her journey - her entrance into eternal life. During these years and throughout her life suffering played an important role in her life. Small but mighty, few persons have exerted as profound an influence on the lives of countless individuals as did Sister Dolores! May she continue from Heaven to affect our lives for our own good and the greater honor and glory of God.

In Him,

Sisters of St. Francis
St. Joseph Gerontology Center