

St. Joseph Convent
Alliance, Nebraska
June 14, 1981

Dear Sisters and friends of Sister Gertrudis,

On June 9, at 6:50 A.M. our dear Sister M. Gertrudis Stiene closed her eyes and left this troubled world for her new life with God, whom she had so faithfully served for over 55 years.

Sister's death could truly be called "The passing of a Saint." Many of us were privileged to spend the last hours at her death bed praying for the release of her soul which took place without a struggle.

Sister Gertrudis had left her homeland in 1923 to serve God in the U.S.A. where help was needed at that time. She cooked, did laundry and various household works. Besides her years at the Indian Mission and St. Agnes Academy, she spent time in Alliance at St. Joseph's where she took care of our elderly and sick Sisters. It seemed that she had a special love for Sister Maxine who almost saw her 100th birthday. It was a common sight to see the two walking through the corridor as Sister Gertrudis sweetly sang a German tune.

Besides her untiring work in the infirmary, Sister loved to work in her flower garden. Maybe she coaxed the flowers into beautiful bloom by those sweet German tunes. Of course she picked the best for the altar where flowers were never lacking.

Thus, our pastor, the Reverend G. Harr, delivered the homily at her Resurrection Mass with a rose in his hand as a symbol of Sister's soul which had attained full bloom.

Sister Gertrudis was laid to rest on June 11, in Calvary Cemetery where she awaits her resurrection together with 70 of our Sisters who are buried there.

Though Sister is no longer with us, we are sure that we shall feel her intercession for us, and that God will continue to bless our work here in Alliance.

Sisters from Denver, Colorado; Harrison, Nebraska; Pine Ridge, South Dakota, as well as Alliance were present at the funeral.

The Sisters of St. Francis
Alliance, Nebraska