

Marian Residence  
1104 Toluca Avenue  
Alliance, Nebraska  
April 13, 1982

Dear Sisters,

Sister Barbara DePlazes, who has been a resident of St. Joseph Gerontology Center since 1978, slipped away on April 6 to spend Holy Week and Easter in Heaven. Her funeral Mass at 10:00 A.M. on Holy Thursday was concelebrated by Father Gerald Harr and Father Michael Richards in the chapel of the Center, and she was laid to rest in Calvary Cemetery.

Josephine Barbara DePlazes was born at Devil's Lake, North Dakota, January 31, 1897. She was the second of three children of Claudius and Mary Barbara DePlazes, who came from Europe to settle at Devil's Lake. Both her older sister and younger brother are deceased; since neither had children, Sister Barbara was the last of her family.

After finishing high school Josephine worked at the School for the Deaf in Devil's Lake and cared for her father until his death. Then she entered the school of nursing at St. Joseph's Hospital, Minot, North Dakota, graduating in 1928 with Sister Ruth Weber and Sister Claire Connelly. After graduation she went to California to join her sister Mary, who was also an R.N. Both sisters worked in the Los Angeles area as private duty nurses for several years. Mary DePlazes remained there until her retirement and later death, but Josephine seemed to hear a voice calling her back to the Sisters of St. Francis.

In 1935 she entered the Congregation at Stella Niagara, New York, retaining her mother's name, Mary Barbara, in religion. After her profession of vows in 1937 she worked in St. Joseph's Hospital, Minot, North Dakota; St. Joseph's Hospital, Alliance, Nebraska, and Holy Rosary Mission, Pine Ridge, South Dakota. Her health was never very good; in the mid-forties she broke down and had to spend some time in semi-retirement in Alliance. She suffered from hypertension and arthritis, and was later involved in a serious car accident while working at Holy Rosary Mission. This resulted in a broken hip which never completely healed. She returned to Minot after the accident, and was active in the community there until she suffered a stroke, after which she returned to St. Joseph Gerontology Center in Alliance. She died of complications resulting from a fall.

Perhaps Sister Barbara's life is an illustration of Our Lord's parable about the worker who came to the vineyard at the eleventh hour. Her active life in religion was short, but she had many years of sickness and suffering to offer to God. We can be sure that He who said, "the last shall be first, and the first last," welcomed her to the land where there is no more pain forever.

In the love of the Risen Christ,  
Your Sisters at Marian Residence