

# MARIAN RESIDENCE

1104 Toluca Avenue  
ALLIANCE, NEBRASKA 69301

September 20, 1982

Dear Sisters and Friends,

At 6:30 in the evening, September 13, while the Sisters prayed at her bedside, Sister Boniface went quietly home to God. She had been a patient sufferer for a long time, having come to St. Joseph's Hospital in 1968, when a failing heart forced her to discontinue teaching music at St. Agnes Academy. Her health worsened so that she was finally confined to a wheel chair most of the day.

Sister Boniface, Teresa Hufnagel, was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, August 27, 1895. Her parents were Lawrence and Ann Marie Hufnagel; she had three brothers and three sisters. One sister, Mrs. Clara Born, is still living in a nursing home in Pennsylvania. A number of nieces and nephews also survive her. A cousin, Sister Raymond Helbling, followed her into religious life, made her vows in 1926, and is now living in retirement at Stella Niagara.

Sister Boniface entered the Congregation at Stella Niagara, New York, in 1916. She received the habit in 1917 and was sent to Holy Rosary Mission, Pine Ridge, South Dakota, to teach. She made her profession of vows at Stella Niagara in March, 1919, and continued a teaching career which was to cover more than fifty years. She taught in the states of New York, Ohio, Montana, Colorado, South Dakota, and Nebraska.

Sister was an accomplished musician, and usually taught music or conducted singing, along with her duties as elementary teacher. She also had executive ability, as her many years as elementary principal of several convents show. Those who worked with her found that she was particular about how things were done, but her droll sense of humor often enlivened community gatherings. Her last eight years of teaching were spent at St. Agnes Academy, Alliance, Nebraska.

Sister Boniface was buried on September 16, a beautiful fall day. Her funeral Mass in St. Joseph Gerontology Center chapel was concelebrated by four priests. Sisters from Denver, O'Neill, and Harrison, and a number of people of the parish joined us for the celebration of her entrance into Eternal Life. Six Sisters acted as pallbearers. A lunch was served by the Altar Society of Holy Rosary Parish following the burial at Calvary Cemetery.

Our pastor, Father Francis Curran, stated in his homily that even though Sister Boniface has gone before us, something of her remained; just as there are those who play the piano today because she taught them, there are also those who live the religious life because of her inspiration and example. He closed his talk as he had begun it, with a quotation from a black preacher whose word at funerals was, "She is not dead, but only just gone home".

The Sisters at Marian Residence