

MARIAN RESIDENCE

1104 Toluca Avenue
ALLIANCE, NEBRASKA 69301

January 23, 1985

Dear Sisters,

After fifty-eight years of religious profession, fifty-one and a half of which were spent at St. Joseph's in Alliance, Sister Ruth Weber has gone home to God. She had traveled a long weary road to death, beginning on May 26, 1984, when she fell in her room at Marian Residence during the night and injured her spine. On June 28 she was returned from Box Butte General Hospital to the Sisters Care Unit of St. Joseph Gerontology Center. Since then she was in and out of the hospital several times. During July two of her sisters, Mrs. Alice Hutchinson and Mrs. George Calkins, visited her. On July 9 Sister Ruth underwent surgery to remove an infected gall bladder, and in September she was hospitalized for pancreatitis. Mr. and Mrs. Calkins came again in October; at that time Sister was somewhat improved, but her condition worsened again until she lapsed into a coma a few hours before she died. On January 18 the Sisters at Marian Residence were notified that Sister Ruth was weakening; several gathered at her bedside in prayer. Sister Francis Grubb and Sister Maureen Murphy then kept watch with her until she quietly breathed her last, shortly after midnight.

(Emma) Marie Weber, the daughter of Peter Weber and his wife, Anna Zimmerman, was born in Anamoose, North Dakota, on September 18, 1904. Her father died while she was still young, and her mother was remarried to Theodore Allers. The family continued to increase until there were twelve children, six of whom died before Sister Ruth; four sisters and one brother survive. She entered the convent at Stella Niagara, New York, in 1924, and made her first vows in 1927. She graduated from the school of nursing of St. Joseph's Hospital, Minot, North Dakota in 1928. Sister worked briefly in the Franciscan Sisters' hospitals in Havre, Montana, and in Minot before coming to St. Joseph's Hospital, Alliance, in 1933.

In 1934 Sister Ruth received training in medical technology under the direction of Dr. Philip Hilkwitz, the first pathologist to work at St. Joseph's. She worked at both duties until 1948, when she suffered a coronary. Upon recovery she was assigned to head the Central Supply and Drug room of the hospital as a less strenuous activity. She never spared herself, however, and found many little tasks to do besides her assigned duties.

After St. Joseph's was closed as a hospital Sister Ruth spent much of her time with the retired Sisters, and also cared for the chapel. She moved to Marian Residence shortly after the Sisters Care Unit was opened in January of 1982, but continued to spend much time there as long as she was able to do so.

Due to severe weather conditions not many Sisters were able to attend Sister Ruth's funeral but Sister Mary Carroll, our provincial was here. The Mass was offered in her beloved Gerontology Center Chapel at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, January 22. Our pastor, Father Francis Curran, and Father Ray Kosmicki of Hemingford concelebrated, and Agnes Kunzman led the singing. About fifteen nurses formed an honor guard. The bright sun made the newly fallen snow sparkle like diamonds when we laid Sister Ruth with seventy-nine of her Sisters in Calvary Cemetery.

We will miss Sister Ruth's quiet ways, her sweet smile, the little twinkle in her eyes. We believe that she offered her sufferings in those last days for the survival of the good work being carried on at St. Joseph's and that she will not forget us nor her old home in heaven. May her soul rest in peace.

The Sisters at Marian Residence