

MARIAN RESIDENCE

1104 Toluca Avenue
ALLIANCE, NEBRASKA 69301

June 6, 1986

Dear Sisters and Friends,

Early in the morning on June 1, the feast of Corpus Christi, Sister Thoma Mayer left this world as quietly as she had lived. She had been failing for some time and was unable to take any food or drink for several days before her death. Sister Marion Rotherham and Sister Emilia Weiler spent most of the last afternoon in prayer at her bedside. Sister Francis Marie McMahon and four of the devoted women who care for our Sisters in the Retired Sisters' Residence were with her when she died.

Myrtle Mayer was born in Glenford, Ohio, ^{July} ~~June~~ 30, 1900. Her parents were Ephraem and Martha Rusler Mayer. After their Mother's early death, Myrtle and her younger sister Blanche were placed in St. Vincent's Orphanage, Columbus, Ohio, where they were received into the church. Blanche died in the flu epidemic of 1918; Myrtle then entered the Sisters of St. Francis at Stella Niagara, New York. She was given the name of Sister Thoma and made her vows on August 30, 1920.

Sister Thoma was a primary teacher for nearly sixty years. She remained as simple and childlike as her young charges, but she taught them well; her students learned their religion and good manners as well as their ABC's. Only God knows how many children she prepared for their First Holy Communion.

Because of failing health Sister Thoma came to retire at St. Joseph Gerontology Center in 1978. She celebrated sixty-five years in religious vows quietly on April 16, 1985. Among the few joys of her last years were the occasional visits of small children to the Retired Sisters' Residence, or meeting children while on a wheel chair ride out of doors. She loved them to the end.

Sister Thoma was laid to rest in Calvary Cemetery on June 4, after a Mass celebrated by Father Daniel Christensen, Associate Pastor of Holy Rosary Church. May God grant her life eternal.

The Sisters at Marian Residence