

MARIAN RESIDENCE

1104 Toluca Avenue
ALLIANCE, NEBRASKA 69301

September 29, 1986

Dear Sisters and Friends,

At 8:05 p.m. on Wednesday, September 24, Sister Marianne Langer triumphed over at least fourteen years of suffering from Parkinsonism. She had been a resident of St. Joseph Gerontology Center for eleven years, gradually growing weaker as the disease progressed. She was still able to enjoy the birthday celebration for her and her sister Mary, which took place on August 16 and 17, midway between their two birthdays. She also enjoyed the visits of her other sisters, Irma Frederickson and Gertrude Foster, during the last month of her life.

Rose Cecelia Langer was born in Norden, Nebraska, June 11, 1914. She was the fifth in a family of seven children; two brothers and a sister preceded her in death. She graduated from St. Mary's Academy in O'Neill in 1932, and taught in country schools for a couple of years. Then her parents, growing older on an isolated farm in the canyons south of Norden, needed help. Rose remained at home and assisted them until her sister Irma was able to take her place, then followed her call to religious life.

Rose entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Marycrest, Denver, in 1941, and was given the name of Sister Marianne. After her first vows in 1943 she began her career as an elementary teacher at St. Francis Mission on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. She was to teach in Alliance and O'Neill, Nebraska; Holy Rosary Mission in South Dakota; Pasadena, California; and Denver, Colorado, before illness forced her retirement in 1975.

Although Sister Marianne remained mentally alert, her physical powers failed until she was no longer able to walk, and her speech became slurred so that most people could no longer understand it; her attempts to communicate often caused her acute suffering. She still had some good days, but as time went on these periods of remission became shorter and less frequent. When the end came, however, it was rather sudden and unexpected. On Tuesday evening, September 23, we prayed with her and our pastor, Father Ed Cortney, administered the Sacrament of the Sick. On Wednesday evening after Mass we prayed with her again; about eight p.m. we were called to her bedside, but she died quietly before most of us reached it. However, the two mother members of her profession group, Sister Miriam Rubel and Sister Bernard Meyer, were with her at the end.

As usual, Office of the Dead was recited in the Gerontology Center chapel after Sister Marianne's body was returned on Thursday evening. Both our pastors led the rosary at 7:00 p.m. Father Ed Cortney offered the Mass of the Resurrection at 10:00 a.m. on Friday morning. Fifteen members of her family, including her three sisters, a sister-in-law, two brothers-in-law, several nieces and nephews and a small grand-nephew were present for the services. Long-stemmed red roses, symbolic of her baptismal name were on her coffin. She was laid to rest in Calvary Cemetery on a beautiful fall day. The Alleluias sung at her graveside truly meant that, for her, the strife was over, at last. May her soul live in peace forever.

The Sisters at Marian Residence