

# MARIAN RESIDENCE

1104 Toluca Avenue  
ALLIANCE, NEBRASKA 69301

March 12, 1988

Dear Sisters, Family, and Friends of Sister Rena

Sister Rena Langer was a person who liked surprises and her final days were filled with many. Sister had been in ill health and confined to a wheel chair for the last several years due to a form of Parkinsons Disease, but she really was not sicker than usual during the last day of her life. That day she told someone she would be glad when she got to heaven where she could see to read and hear to listen to music. On the evening of March 8, Sister was wakeful and the nurse in the Nursing Care Unit stayed with her until she finally dozed off. She was checked twice more from midnight until the third check when she was found not breathing. At 12:30 a.m. on March 9, 1988, she was with God where we are sure she can now see and hear. As each person heard of her death the response was "not Sister Rena!!!"

The next surprise came on the day of her funeral. The afternoon before, a blizzard had moved in and on Friday morning, March 11, the weather was very bad. All roads into Alliance were blocked. Most of the pall bearers couldn't get in so adjustments were made. Father Edward Cortney offered the Funeral Mass at 10:00 a.m. in the gym at Marian Residence instead of in the parish church. The ladies of the choir, the altar boys and a few friends, as well as the Sisters from Alliance, braved the storm for the Mass. The ladies from the parish Altar Society brought in our noon lunch. We were so grateful that a car from O'Neill, one from Denver, and Sister Victorine from Gering were able to get here before the storm to pray with us during these days. We all felt Sister Rena enjoyed this last surprise and arranged it so the Sisters from the Nursing Care Unit could attend the Mass. Sister Mary Carroll, our provincial minister, and other Sisters were prevented from coming because of the storm.

Elizabeth Langer was born in Osnabruck, Germany, October 29, 1899 to Johannes Langer and Agnes Heidemann. She entered at Nonnenwerth in 1921. There she heard and responded to the call to be a missionary in the United States. Sister Rena came as a novice to Stella Niagara in 1922. She made her vows as a Sister of St. Francis in 1924. During the next forty-nine years Sister taught in the elementary grades in New York, Ohio, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Nebraska except for a few years when she taught high school at St. Francis Mission. In 1973, she came to Alliance to retire because of poor health.

Sister is survived by one Sister-in-law and several nieces and nephews.

Because of the storm, the burial could not take place until Monday, March 14, where Sister joined eighty-nine other Franciscans in Calvary Cemetery to await the final judgment day.

May she, "who instructed many to justice shine as a star for all eternity."

Peace and All Good,

The Sisters at Marian Residence