

*St. Mary's*

O'NEILL, NEBRASKA 68763

May 31, 1988

Dear Sisters and family of Sister Jolenta,

Our dear 99 year old "Sister Jolly" left us at 8:30 on the morning of May 28, at Marian Residence in Alliance, Nebraska. After twelve years of semiretirement at St. Mary's, O'Neill, and three more years in the loving infirmary atmosphere of Marian Residence, Sister eagerly waited her call to go home to God. Until she broke her hip two years ago, she vied to be the first in the chapel each morning. That early morning time with the Lord and her two holy hours each day were the essence of her late years

Sister offered many hours of prayer and countless little disappointments and sacrifices for the conversion of Russia. That her last days with us here and her funeral services should take place at the same time as the summit meetings continued between President Reagan and Mikael Gorbachev-- all seems more than mere coincidence.

Taking over the high school office at the noon recess, tutoring occasionally, and doing light housekeeping chores blended well with her prayer life. Sister kept up with world news and loved reading historical novels until her sight became too feeble. And she thoroughly enjoyed playing solitaire.

Sister Jolenta loved her family, and since Vatican II when we penniless Franciscans could enjoy a monthly ten dollar stipend, She saved her pennies to buy little useful articles or toiletries as Christmas gifts for her brothers and sisters. This was a really simple joy she experienced after being away from home for over sixty years.

On March 13, 1988, Sister Jolenta completed 75 years of vowed life.

No celebration was appropriate because Sister had become bedfast then. Her last weeks alternated between a coma-like sleep and very alert days. On these better days she could be her same jolly self, a bit weaker of course, but rational and determined.

Sister Jolenta was second oldest of a family of eleven. Surviving her are Sister Antonella of St. Mary's, O'Neill, Mike of rural Atkinson, Nebraska, and Helen Wilson of San Luis Obispo, California. At celebration times, Sister enjoyed becoming more deeply acquainted with her nieces and nephews and with their families. Now she can be a real intercessor with God for those she loved here. We at St. Mary's, as at Marian Residence, already feel her "prayer power."

Your devoted

SISTERS AT ST. MARY'S, O'Neill