

## MARIAN RESIDENCE

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On October 8, 2000 at 11:15 a.m. the Sisters of St. Francis said good-bye to ninety-six year-old Sister Laurita Archer. A native of Colfax, North Dakota, Florence Lenore Archer was born to Martin Archer and Theresa (Clark) Archer January 18, 1904. She was the fourth child in a family of eleven children. She graduated from the Tioga, North Dakota School in 1921 and attended Minot State Teachers College and the University of Minnesota. She taught in grade and high schools in North Dakota before entering the Sisters of St. Francis Novitiate in Stella Niagara, New York in 1933. At her reception into the community in 1934 she received the name Sister M. Laurita.

After her first profession, August 18, 1935, she taught lower elementary grades in North Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, and Washington. From 1939 to 1942 and 1966 to 1972 she taught at St. Agnes Academy, Alliance, Nebraska and from 1942 to 1952 taught High School Normal Training at St. Mary's Academy, O'Neill, Nebraska. Then she taught again in the elementary grades. During her fifty-four years of teaching, Sister's greatest efforts were to instill God's love in the hearts of her students and to teach them the value of prayer. Sister held a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science degree in Education.

In 1980 Sister Laurita retired to Marycrest, Denver, Colorado, and came to Marian Residence in 1986. Her love of music was evident in her life and after she came to Marian Residence she finally had time to play the piano as much as she wanted. Sister Laurita was a gentle, peaceful person and quietly went through her life asking for very few things.

During the last several years Sister suffered some strokes and several TIA's which deprived her of ability to walk. She spent several years confined to a wheelchair. In May of this year she was able to celebrate her sixty-fifth jubilee but by that time she was unable to feed herself. About three weeks ago her condition worsened and she was confined to her bed. The nursing staff cared for her lovingly and the priests stopped frequently to see her and to pray with us while we waited for the Angel of Death to come.

A wake service was held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 10, and the Mass of Resurrection was at 10:00 a.m. on October 11. The people of the parish, the present and former members of the nursing staff, and several out-of-town Sisters were present to bless Sister on the last step of her journey.

Sister Laurita is survived by one brother, two sisters-in-law, a brother-in-law, many nieces and nephews and her Franciscan Sisters.

Her Franciscan Sisters at Marian Residence