

MARIAN RESIDENCE

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December 9, 2000

Dear Sisters, Associates, Family Members and Friends,

Those of us who lived with Sister Rosalie DuRay during these past months when she has been unable to speak learned to understand by the inflection and tone of her voice just what her ever present "O.K." meant. The nurses who cared for her so lovingly were especially attentive to her many needs and wants. We are certain that her response at her first glimpse of the Beatific Vision was a joyful and grateful resounding "O.K."

Gladys Regina DuRay was born to William and Elizabeth Rowan DuRay on April 28, 1902 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. There were five other girls in the family all of whom preceded her in death. When Gladys was a young child the family moved to Castle Rock, CO. From there she went to St. Agnes Academy in Alliance, NE. In June of 1921 she graduated from the Academy and in August of that year entered the novitiate of the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity at Stella Niagara, New York. On August 21, 1923 she was received into the order and was given the name Sister M. Rosalie. In 1924 she made her first profession of vows and began her long and successful career as a teacher of primary grades. She taught in California, New York, Ohio, the Indian Missions in South Dakota, Colorado and in Nebraska where she taught in O'Neill, Alliance, Scottsbluff and Rushville. During all those years Sister prepared hundreds of young children to welcome Jesus on their First Communion day. Her calm, loving kindness touched many and she developed long and lasting friendships.

During her days at Marian Sister suffered several strokes and many TIA's. About two years ago a stroke deprived her of the ability to speak more than a few words although she was very alert. She was able to walk about her room but needed a wheelchair for distances. In late spring another small stroke deprived her of more of her already poor eye sight. There was a slow but gradual decline in her health status. A few days before death, renal failure, which had been a persistent problem for the past four years, became irreversible. Her niece, Jacqui Soles, visited her on November 29 and 30. About 11:00 a.m. on the day of her death Sister became worse and we knew death was near. At 2:40 p.m. all of the Sisters were present and praying with her while she peacefully and quietly breathed her last at 3:15 p.m. The parish priests stopped frequently during her last days.

To accommodate our needs and those of her family members who came from Denver, we had her wake at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, December 5 and the Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated at 11:00 a.m. at Holy Rosary Church on the same day. Several of her family members, including a niece, a nephew and several grand nieces were present for the wake and funeral. Several Sisters from Denver and the Mission joined the Sisters in Alliance and our Associates at the Mass.

The Sisters at Marian Residence,