

MARIAN RESIDENCE

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June 6, 2001

Dear Sisters, Associates, Relatives and Friends of Sister Eileen Gran,

Sister Eileen Gran, 73, died Tuesday, May 29, 2001 at 3:15 p.m. at Good Samaritan Village, Alliance, Nebraska. Mary Ellen Gran was born July 20, 1927 in Bloomfield, Nebraska, the oldest of eight children, to Elmer and Eva (Parkhurst) Gran. She professed her first vows at Marycrest, Denver, Colorado, on August 16, 1946. Her teaching ministry was carried out at the Indian Missions in South Dakota, in Nebraska, Colorado and Rome, Italy. After finishing her studies in Montessori and in order to implement the program, Sister Eileen lived in the homes of Sioux Indians to better understand the life style of the younger children. She excelled in the Montessori method and started this program at Holy Rosary Mission, Pine Ridge, South Dakota, where it is still part of the curriculum. She endeared herself to the Indian people and was given the Name Wanahca Watagla (Wild Flower).

In 1995 Sister Eileen came to Marian Residence because she was suffering from Alzheimers. To provide a secure and safe environment she was transferred in 1997 to a special unit in a local nursing home. Within several months Sister was unable to recognize us and was unable to receive the Eucharist when visited daily by Sister Carmelita Telles. However, during these months she always responded to sunshine and music as well as the kindness of her care givers. During these last weeks Sister's space perception was so poor that her falls were frequent. On May 11, Sister fell and fractured her hip. She was transferred to West Nebraska General Hospital, Scottsbluff, Nebraska where on May 13 she had a Total Hip Replacement. On Friday, May 18, she returned to Good Samaritan in Alliance, Nebraska. During the last days her condition deteriorated. Sisters Rita Neyens and Margaret Schneider prayed with her Tuesday afternoon. A few minutes after they left and a few minutes before Sisters Leonita Hager and Miriam Rubel arrived, Sister Eileen entered into eternal life. Her final ministry was a call to years of suffering and submission.

The Mass of the Resurrection was offered at Holy Rosary Church in Alliance, Nebraska on June 4, 2001. Active participants in the liturgy were Father Bryan Ernest, her Sisters of St. Francis, her brothers Jim and Willis, her sisters Virginia, Patricia, Eileen and Elizabeth (Carolyn was unable to attend), numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. The wake service was held at Marian Residence on Sunday evening, June 3, 2001.

The quote from Emily Dickinson on the liturgy program was, "Hope is that thing with feathers that perches in the soul and sings the tune without words and never stops at all."

The Sisters at Marian Residence