

MARIAN RESIDENCE

1104 Toluca Avenue
ALLIANCE, NEBRASKA 69301

December 31, 2002

Anna Mary Connors was born to Matthew and Mary Lydon Connors on April 10, 1907 in Velva, North Dakota. She was the seventh child and only girl.

On August 12, 1929 she was received into the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity at Stella Niagara, New York. She was given the name Sister Mary Lenore. On August 16, Sister Lenore professed first vows and then taught grade school for nine years in Ohio, West Virginia, New York, North Dakota, Montana and Nebraska.

In 1939 she became the provincial secretary-treasurer for the new mid-west province of the Sacred Heart with headquarters in Denver, Colorado. From 1957 to 1960 she studied at Regina Mundi in Rome, Italy, and later received a M.A. from Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She then ministered in schools in South Dakota and Nebraska. Sister's ministry in 1975 was at the reception desk at St. Joseph's Hospital, Minot, North Dakota, her home town.

In 1967 Sister chose to return to her baptismal name, Anna Mary, but asked to be called Ann Mary. During these same years she became a great Notre Dame fan – watching games, praying for “her” team, writing letters of encouragement to the coaches of Notre Dame, and bragging about the return letters she received. Many Notre Dame memorabilia graced her room.

The last years of her life, arthritis was her frequent companion and she was seldom pain free, but her sharp Irish wit was very evident. During the last several weeks Sister's condition worsened, the pain increased, her appetite was poor and she fell frequently. The arthritis medications caused nausea and were discontinued. Hospice nurses were called in and helped make her last days more comfortable. Christmas Day, Sister was able to attend Mass in our chapel but looked very ill. Thursday, her condition became critical and we stayed with her praying. She was alert enough to thank everyone and she apologized for any hurt she may have caused. On Saturday, December 28 at 3:00 p.m., many of the nursing staff gathered in her room to pray. This made it so evident that her personality was one that allowed her to walk into the hearts of many people. At 5:30 the Sisters and Father Bryan Ernest gathered near her room to say the prayers for the dying. We prayed until 7:00 and departed. Two nurses stayed in her room and we were called back at about 11:00 p.m., but Sister had gone peacefully and quietly to her eternal reward.

The wake was at 7:00 p.m. January 1, and the funeral Mass at 10:00 a.m. January 2 at Marian Hall. A niece, Mary Crosby, her husband Ed, and son Paul, from Fort Collins, Colorado, her nephew John, his wife Joan and children Katie and Shawn from Minneapolis, Minnesota, some out of town friends and several Sisters from O'Neill, Nebraska, Denver, Colorado, St. Francis Mission, St. Francis, South Dakota, Manderson South Dakota and Holy Rosary Mission, Pine Ridge, South Dakota were present for the funeral. The funeral Mass included tributes to her Irish ancestry and her love of the Notre Dame football team. She was laid to rest at Mt. Calvary Cemetery here in Alliance, where 111 of our Sisters are already buried.

We know she is spending time with her God in that heaven across the Irish Sea.

Your sisters at Marian Residence.