

Marian Residence
1104 Toluca
Alliance, NE 69301

Dear Sisters, Relatives and Friends of Sister Florence Southall;

The Angel of Death hovered very close to Marian Residence as Sister Florence Southall waited until May 27, 2003 to join Sister Anna Krenzel who died May 25, 2003.

Ethel Elizabeth Southall was born October 24, 1907 to Vincent and Clara (Sendoff) Southall in Bellevue, Kentucky and died May 27, 2003 at 8:00 a.m. at Marian Residence, Alliance, Nebraska. She has one living sibling. Her parents and one sister preceded her in death. Her father died when she was quite young and her mother's health failed so Sister spent four years at St. Vincent's Orphanage, Columbus, Ohio, before she entered the Sisters of St. Francis in 1926. Ethel received the name, Sister M. Florence, at her Reception in 1927. After first vows on August 27, 1928 she received her High School diploma from St. Mary's Academy, O'Neill, Nebraska. Over the years she received a B.S. degree from Regis College, Denver, Colorado, a Masters degree in Sacred Science from St. Bonaventure University, Orlean, New York, and a Masters degree in Catechetical work from the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. Sister taught school in New York, California, South Dakota and Nebraska. From 1966 until 1981 she and Sister Agnesine Hargarten did Catechetical work along Highway twenty from Harrison, Nebraska to Ainsworth, Nebraska and were called the "God Squad", the name given to them by the bishop of the diocese, Bishop Sullivan. The headline for her retirement article in the paper "proclaimed Sister Florence Southall and Sister Agnesine Hargarten "the Vagabonds of Highway 20." They were lauded as "A community of Vision, Message and Service" as they traveled up and down Highway 20 directing and helping catechists in each small parish. In 1974 the Sisters received a citation from the National Catholic Educational Association for Outstanding Catholic Educators of the Diocese of Grand Island, Nebraska. In 1966 this was an entirely new ministry for Sisters.

On May 3, 2003 Sister celebrated seventy-five years as a professed religious but was not feeling well. We attributed this to excitement. However, Monday, May 5, she was admitted to the hospital here in Alliance with pneumonia. On May 15 she returned to Marian Residence but was still far from well. She had great difficulty swallowing medication and taking nourishment or fluid. Hospice was called and they were able to give her medications to relieve her discomfort. She died peacefully and had many Sisters and staff members at her bedside during her last days.

At the Mass of the Resurrection some members of the lay staff at Marian Residence placed the Pall on Sister Anna Krenzel's casket and another group placed the Pall on Sister Florence Southall's casket. One of the Sisters commented that for one last time the caregivers clothed the Sisters for whom they had so lovingly cared.

The Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated on May 28, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at Marian Residence, Alliance, Nebraska. The theme "Let Your Light Shine" from their Jubilee was carried into their funeral liturgy which was celebrated by Father Bryan Ernest. Many Sisters, associates and staff members were at the funeral.

Sister was laid to rest in Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Alliance, Nebraska.

Blessings,

The Sisters at Marian Residence