

*And God said to her: "Come my beloved, my lovely one,
I have prepared a place for you, whom I Love."*

Dear Sisters, Relatives, Associates and Friends,

On Saturday, April 23, 2005, Sister Margaret Schneider was walking home from morning Mass around 8:40 a.m. and was crossing the main street in O'Neill, NE on a green light when she was struck by a pickup driven by Mike Sargent from Grand Island, NE. Sister Margaret was life-flighted with severe head trauma to Mercy Medical Center in Sioux City, IA, where Sisters Colleen Mahoney, Rita Neyens and Jeannine Hershiser stayed with her until her death three days later. On April 26, 2005, at 10:30 p.m., God took her home to the place that had been prepared for her in the Heavenly Kingdom. Sister Margaret died peacefully at the age of 84, surrounded by all of our love and the prayers of so many people.

A wake service for Sister Margaret was held on Friday, April 29, in O'Neill, NE, at Biglin's Mortuary from 5 to 9 p.m. with Fr. Eric Olsen presiding and Sister Jeannine Hershiser providing the music. The Gospel used at her wake was John 14:1-7, which we later found marked in her own Bible at home. "Hail Mary Gentle Woman" was also sung at the beginning of the Rosary because Sister Margaret was a loving, compassionate woman who prayed the Rosary every day. Many people shared their loving memories of Sister and her ministry in O'Neill as a Pastoral Minister at Avera St. Anthony's Hospital, as well as her work with the Franciscan Associates and her Bible Study group.

The Mass of the Resurrection for Sister Margaret was held at St. Patrick's Church in O'Neill, on Saturday, April 30 at 10:30 a.m. with Fr. Eric Olsen officiating. Sister Jeannine and Lisa Lueninghoener, pianist and director of the Contemporary choir, provided the music. The Franciscan Associates and Sister Margaret's Bible Study Group stood as honor guard. Sister Rita Neyens carried in the Easter Candle followed by Sister Margaret's family who placed the pall on her casket. Sisters Muriel Witte, Cecilia Linenbrink, Colleen Mahony, Lois Jean Carlson, Bernadette Clifford, Regina Boyle and Mrs. Lucille Dufek carried in Sister Margaret's Crucifix, Bible, Rosary, picture of Mother Magdalen and St. Francis, Mary Our Lady of the Prairie community picture, and our Province Picture which were all placed on her casket. Sister Cecilia and Sister Regina read the Prayers of the Faithful. Sister Rita and Sister Lois Jean brought up the gifts. Sister Bernard Meyer and Sister Annette Tschacher were also present. Sister Anita Rolenc and Miss Barbara Birmingham read the 1st and 2nd Readings. Sister Margaret was buried in the O'Neill Calvary Cemetery. A dinner was served by the Altar Society in the Parish Center.

Sister Margaret (Lydia) Schneider was born on January 21, 1921, at Orrin, North Dakota, to Jacob and Margaret (Gerein) Schneider. She grew up in that area and on September 8, 1939, entered as a candidate with the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity at Marycrest Convent in Denver, CO. She remained there until August 15, 1942, when she moved to St. Mary's Convent in O'Neill where she was an assistant cook. Sister Margaret made her profession of Perpetual Vows on August 15, 1944 at Marycrest in Denver, CO.

She was moved numerous times, but returned to O'Neill on June 1, 1984, to live at St. Anthony's Convent and to work at St. Anthony's Hospital where she ministered Pastoral Care to the sick until the time of her retirement in June of 2000. As a Eucharistic Minister, she continued to take Holy Communion to the sick. Sister Margaret touched the lives of many people with her gentle care and through the prayers that she gave so freely for others. She was a wonderful cook. Sister Margaret and her Sister Margaret Mary cooked and baked great meals for the Sisters, which we all enjoyed. She loved nature and walked daily for her health.

Sister Margaret is survived by three brothers and two sisters: Anthony Schneider and his wife, Irene, of Devils Lake, N.D.; Raphael Schneider and his wife, Nettie, of Rugby, N.D.; Francis Schneider and his wife, Gloria, of Minnewaukan, N.D.; Agnes Haman and her husband, Mike, of Devils Lake, N.D.; and Magdalen Schneider, of Rugby, N.D. She was preceded in death by her parents and seven siblings (four brothers and three sisters): John, Joseph, Jacob, Rudolph, Martha, Catherine Krenzel, and Sister Margaret Mary.

Sister Margaret belonged to Mary, Our Lady of the Prairie Regional Community. She will be greatly missed by all of us.

*"Well done, good and faithful Franciscan
Woman of God,
Daughter of Mother Magdalen
and Spouse of Christ."*

Mary, Our Lady of the Prairie Community