

MARIAN RESIDENCE  
1194 TOLUCA AVENUE  
ALLIANCE, NEBRASKA 69301

September, 2006

Dear Sisters, Associates, Family Members and Friends;

With a smile and a glance over and past the shoulders of the Sister and the nurse Sister M. Francis Grubb welcomed Sister Death at 3am, Tuesday, August 29, 2006. Because of her many years of caring lovingly and gently for newborn babies, someone commented at the wake that she felt Mary accompanied Sister Death and held out the Infant Jesus to her. Her parents, three sisters and three brothers preceded her in death. Her survivors are one sister-in-law, nieces, nephews and her Sisters of St. Francis.

December 5, 1916 a fifth child was born to Peter Alfred Grubb and his wife Jeannie Francina (Brundell). This daughter born into a German-Norwegian family near Powers Lake, North Dakota was named Eleanor Therese. Following her graduation from high school in Powers Lake she worked for a time for a Catholic family. The spark of interest she took in Catholicism there came into flame when she entered the School of Nursing at St. Joseph's Hospital in Minot. Monsignor Joseph Raith and the Sisters were her mentors. After her baptism she felt called to the Franciscan Way of Life. Her Call to baptism in the Catholic Faith was hard for her parents but her Call to Religious Life was more difficult for them. Yet with Faith in her decision she entered the Novitiate at Marycrest in Denver in November of 1939; as a postulant she returned to Bismarck, ND to take her State Boards for Nursing.

At her reception on August 20, 1940 she received the name Francis and asked that it be spelled with an "F". Following her first profession August 21, 1941 she returned to St. Joseph's Hospital in Minot, N.D. as Medical Floor supervisor. During these years both a serious diphtheria and polio epidemic tested her neatness and the orderly functioning on the large Medical Floor. Her next transfer in 1945 was to Scottsbluff, NE to minister at the newly acquired Fairacres Hospital, which was renamed St. Mary Hospital. During her time there she took a training course for Nurse Anesthetists at Peoria, IL. In 1956 she went to St. Anthony's Hospital, O'Neill, NE. During the next twenty-seven years in O'Neill she worked as a Nurse Anesthetist, Administrator and Night RN. The patients felt very confident when she was present in the Operating Room and/or Delivery room. The mothers appreciated her quiet, calm ways and knew they and the new baby would receive excellent care. During these years she spent sometime in Ohio relieving other Sister Anesthetists and would go often to a near by town, Atkinson, to give anesthetics. After some months at the Hospital in Kenmare, ND her ministry led her to help at Queen of Peace in Denver. She then served as supervisor of the Sisters Care Unit at St. Joseph's in Alliance and spent a year as Minister at Marian Residence in Alliance before living at St. Clare's convent in Alliance. In 1997 she was admitted as a resident to Marian Residence. In the fall of 1999, for her safety she was admitted to the Secure Unit at Good Samaritan Nursing Home in Alliance. After Sister was confined to a wheelchair she returned to Marian in 2003. This transition was easy and we felt she appreciated being and praying with the Sisters again.

Several weeks before her death she had an increasing number of medical problems and Hospice was called to help manage her care. To our staff at Marian and the Hospice Staff we owe grateful praise. They so gently placed the Pall on her casket at the funeral Mass on Friday, September 1. They and the Sisters mourn the death of this very shy, gentle Sister. Father Jim Heithoff officiated at the funeral Mass. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery. Sisters from Denver, Valentine, O'Neill, Rapid City and Manderson attended the funeral.

The Wake service was at 7pm on Thursday, August 31. A power point presentation of pictures of Sister Francis was presented and each person who shared memories of her life spoke of her shy, retiring nature, her efficiency, her love of the outdoors (even to keeping the leaves swept and windows clean) and her ever pleasant smile. In May Sister celebrated the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her Religious Profession.

Blessings of Peace and All Good from the Sisters at Marian Residence