

MARIAN RESIDENCE

1104 Toluca Avenue
ALLIANCE, NEBRASKA 69301
(308) 762-4408

December 14, 2010

Dear Relatives and Friends of Sister Elenius;

Sister Elenius Pettinger died peacefully at 3pm on Friday, December 10, 2010, with sisters praying at her bedside. She was born to Raymond and Sylvia Backman Pettinger on June 17, 1919 at Stuart, NE and named Sylvia Louise but went by the name Louise. She was the first of six children, three girls and three boys. Her family moved to St. Francis, SD when Sister was a young girl and from there she entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity on September 8, 1937 at Stella Niagara, NY. On August 16, 1938 she was received into the community and given the name "Elenius". During Christmas Vacation of 1938 she and two other novices moved from Stella Niagara, NY to the new Provincial House, Marycrest, in Denver, CO to finish their canonical year. She professed first vows August 17, 1939 in Denver and final Vows August 15, 1942.

During her first twenty years as a Sister she taught schools in South Dakota and Nebraska with some time in Medical Records in Hospitals in Nebraska and North Dakota. She spent a few years as Superior at St. Francis Mission in SD. During these years she suffered much from a back injury she had received as a child and had back surgery. In 1966 her ministry was in the Business Office at St. Joseph's Hospital in Alliance and St. Anthony's, O'Neill. She served in this capacity in Alliance at the time the Hospital closed and the Gerontology Center opened. In 1983 her ministry changed to Retreat Work and Spiritual Direction in which she excelled. In 2006 she retired and moved to Marian Residence in Alliance. During most of the time until her death she was in rather poor health and had considerable pain.

Sister Elenius received a B.A. in Education from Regis University in Denver and a certificate from The Catholic Biblical School in Denver. She also had a License as a Nursing Home Administrator and was a Registered Record Librarian.

Sister Elenius was preceded in death by her parents, one sister and two brothers. Her remaining relatives are a brother Len (who was three years old when she entered) (Joanne) Pettinger and a sister Mary (Henry) Enomoto and nieces and nephews.

The wake was held at Marian Residence Monday, December 13, 2010 at 7pm. The Mass of the Resurrection was at 10am Tuesday, December 14, 2010. Father Jim Heithoff was the Celebrant. Some Advent hymns blended well with the Liturgy. Father mentioned that Sister Elenius may have forgotten some things but during Mass when it was time to receive the Eucharist her face would light up and she was very aware of what was taking place. She was laid to rest in Calvary Cemetery beside 125 other Franciscan sisters.

The Sisters at Marian Residence