

MARIAN RESIDENCE

1104 Toluca Avenue
ALLIANCE, NEBRASKA 69301

October 6, 1988

Dear Sisters, family, and friends of Sister Xavier:

The Angel of Death visited Marian Residence twice in one day, leaving us all a little stunned. We knew that Sister Xavier Kirscht was near journey's end; suffering from heart and circulatory problems, she was on oxygen and drifting in and out of consciousness. But Sister Theresa Hupgen, who seemed to be making a good recovery from a broken hip, became suddenly very ill and died at 12:30 p.m., September 24. A little more than an hour later we were called to Sister Xavier's bedside, but she was gone so quickly that only a few Sisters were there. She expired at 1:50 p.m.; it was a merciful release from long months of suffering.

Our pastor, Fr. Edward Cortney, helped us plan the double funeral. On Monday, September 26, the bodies of the Sisters were brought to Holy Rosary Church at 5:00 p.m. Sisters, relatives, and friends were there to receive them. Our Sisters from O'Neill and Denver had arrived during the afternoon. One of Sister Xavier's sisters, Mrs. Sue Starr; her daughters Delva Ross and Wilda Jersin and Mrs. Gersin's husband, Ed, had driven from Pueblo, CO, to be present. At 7:30 p.m., Fr. Cortney led the rosary. Quite a number of people were present; many of them stayed to view the remains and express sympathy to the Sisters and the family members afterward.

The next morning, Sisters from the two Missions in South Dakota joined us, as well as four younger members of Sister Xavier's family. Sister Theresa has no relatives in the United States, but many of her friends attended the funeral or sent messages and memorials. The Mass was concelebrated by Fr. Edward Cortney, Fr. Stephen Deaver of Gering, and Fr. Michael Guevara of North Platte. Fr. Deaver, who had been one of Sister Xavier's students in grade school at St. Agnes, gave a beautiful homily. Choir members led the singing; Agnes Kunzman sang the Ave Maria at the Offertory. Under a gloomy sky, we laid our Sisters to rest in Calvary cemetery. The ladies of the Altar Society had lunch ready when we returned.

Sister Xavier Kirscht, daughter of Peter and Margaret Marx Kirscht, was born in Buffalo, Minnesota, November 25, 1898. She entered our congregation at Stella Niagara, NY, in 1919 and made her vows August 19, 1922. She was a devoted elementary teacher for over fifty years, having taught in West Virginia, New York, Ohio, Colorado, and Nebraska. Her former students and the Sisters remember her quiet, helpful ways and ready smile.

In 1973, having retired from teaching, Sister Xavier went to live at Marycrest Convent, Denver. Here she helped Sister Rose Wentz with the task of distributing food to the poor, and sometimes taught the children of families in the housing program. Her hobby was making pickles and jellies; she did this not only at Marycrest but went out to other houses to contribute her labors. Members of her family, living in the area of Pueblo, CO, made generous contributions of fruit and vegetables to the cause.

In 1983, after a radical neck dissection for lymphatic cancer, Sister Xavier moved to Alliance. She lived in the Sisters Care Unit at St. Joseph Gerontology Center until the Sisters there were transferred to the Care Unit at Marian Residence in 1987.

Sister Xavier is survived by one brother, Joe Kirscht of Rye CO; three sisters, Mrs. Lorene Stanton, Mrs. Sue Starr, and Mrs. Margaret Eddy, all of Pueblo, CO, and a number of nieces and nephews. Two brothers preceded her in death. May the Lord grant her eternal life.

Peace and All Good

The Sisters at Marian Residence