



May 14, 1998

"I am sure Sister Frances will be very happy in heaven. Reason: she was a happy person here on earth. Eternal life is LIFE - the fulfillment of life - life as God intended it to be."

Opening of Father Fahey's homily at the funeral Mass of Sister Frances Kowalewski.

Dear Sisters:

Sister Frances Kowalewski entered eternal life Saturday morning May 2, 1998, 1:17. She died peacefully. Her sister, Irene, sister-in-law, Estelle and niece, Sandy came during the week for a visit and had returned home Friday. Sister has been under a doctor's care for several months and suffering pain and weakness. The cause of her death was Myeloplastic Disorder.

Sister Frances was born June 11, 1916 to Julius and Victoria (Polack) Kowalewski in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She was baptized in St. Mary of Czestochowa Church in the same city. She attended St. Mary's Elementary School and Riverside High School.

Sister Frances entered Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters congregation February 17, 1934 and pronounced first vows February 11, 1937.

After first vows the newly professed was missioned to Iowa, California, Ohio, Texas, Michigan, Nevada, Utah and Indiana in religious education programs. She has ministered at Victory Noll during the years and different times as superior, coordinator and activity director.

Father David H. Fosselman of Huntington has visited Sister since her illness and was to her wake Tuesday evening. They were together in one of the Indiana missions and he commented on the good she had accomplished in the parish. Decision-making was made more agreeable in the parish and continued so after Sister was gone. High school students had taken to singing.

St. Mary's parish in Grayling, Michigan had published an article in the newspaper as Sister Frances and her companion, Sister Chrysostom Deliman, were leaving the area in 1977. It is noted that their ministry in religious education became combined with pastoral when the Sisters began forming a parish council and developing leadership within the parish. The Sisters became involved in the senior citizen center, middle school and the youth division of the County Sheriff's Office. They were GED tutors and supportive of camp activities for youth. The missions were close to the heart of Sister Frances. She still had a teacher training manual in her possession.

The survivors in this family are one sister, Irene Wawrzyn of Oak Creek, Wisconsin; four brothers, William (Benny) Kowalewski; Edward Kowalewski both of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Albin Kowalewski of Three Lakes, Wisconsin and Joseph McKay of Amherst, Ohio. She was preceded in death by one brother, Clarence Kowalewski and three sisters, Sr. Julia, SSND; Bernice Literski and Lucille Losik. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

The body was brought to Memorial Chapel Tuesday afternoon, May 5, for the wake that evening. Sister Callista Ley was leader, Sisters Anna Marie Richter and Grace Golenberke were readers. The usual beautiful music of the schola and Victory Noll was enhanced as the Sisters in from the missions for meetings, Sister's family and friends joined in the liturgies.

All were invited to the reception in the activity room that evening to meet the family.

Father Thomas Fahey presided at the Liturgy of Christian Burial. Nine members of the family and Father Frederick Smith of Milwaukee Archdiocese and friend of the family were present from Wisconsin to join in prayer. Father Smith read the Gospel and led us in prayer at the cemetery. Sister Gertrude Salitrik was cross bearer; Sandy Schaff, a niece and Debbie Cady, a friend laid the pall; Sister Rose Elizabeth Hohner laid the Christian symbol; Sisters Dorothy Louise Wortmann and Antoinette Golabowski were readers and Sister Victoria Grabler led the Intercessions. Sister Beatrice Haines prayed the Final Commendation.

Sister Mary Joan Ginsterblum tolled the bell as we processed to the cemetery.

Sister Frances, we have looked to you for that touch of the beautiful. We have not been disappointed. You have left a bit of it with us and we will remember you. Thank you.

In Risen Jesus and Mary,

*Sister Marjorie Curran*  
Sister Marjorie Curran  
General Secretary