

September 26

Sister Alma Bleau
(Sister Almeda)
1918-1988

God blessed the marriage of Edgar and Nellie (LaLonde) Bleau with ten children, three of whom entered religious life. The oldest daughter Edwidge became Sister Roselma, I.H.M., in 1925, Alma Ann, Sister Almeda and Orville, Brother Gregoire of the Holy Cross Community in Indiana. The older children were born in Alpena, Michigan, but by the time Alma was ten years old the family had moved to Port Huron. She was educated in St. Stephen grade and high school. The year following her graduation was spent at home helping her mother and working part time. In June, 1929 Alma answered the call to religious life, was received in August, 1930, and made her first profession in August 1932, and pronounced her final vows in 1935.

Sister Almeda's teaching career began and ended at St. Francis^{C.}_A de Sales in Detroit. During the almost forty intervening years she was assigned to various grade schools outside Metropolitan Detroit, in Ohio and in New Mexico. Her life on mission embraced much more than education. Although she describes herself as "a simple sister," companions claim Alma was a warm, friendly, loving religious with a keen sense of humor and a real sense of community and dedication to the serious work of spreading the kingdom.

Her early sunset years were spent in service to others as a portress at Marygrove. In 1977 she came home to the Motherhouse where, due to inroads of arthritis and a failing memory, she was limited according to her own words in her autobiography, "to prayer and helping others in small ways."

The fall of 1980 brought the sorrow of Sister Roselma's death. She was the first of the ten to enter heaven. Sister Alma made an act of acceptance of whatever the Lord might send in expiation for those who "did

not have the opportunities to know God that I have had," she writes in her autobiography.

Arteriosclerosis in the brain continued to destroy all normal functions and reduced her to total helplessness. God in His infinite wisdom and goodness called her to her eternal reward on September 26, 1988.

By - Sister Catherine Walrad