

**SISTER MARY PROVIDENCE**, Pauline Potoczny of Pinconning, Michigan, age 97, religious 78 years, entered eternal life March 13, 2010 in St. Joseph Convent, Livonia, Michigan.

Pauline, born on August 20, 1912, was baptized at St. Mary Church and attended Nine Mile Rural Grade School. Her parents, John and Angela (Slaczka) settled in Pinconning, Michigan and raised a loving family of eight children: Michael, Julia, Mary, Anthony, Antoinette, Stanley, Francis, and Pauline (Sister Mary Providence).

Paging through a Franciscan magazine Pauline saw the title: "The Nun and the Teacher", and said: "That's what I want to be." The parish priest was consulted and assisted Pauline in obtaining admission to Felician Sisters Seminary in Detroit. On June 14, 1932, she was accepted into the Felician Congregation. Pauline was invested with the Felician habit on August 20, 1934 and received the name, Sister Mary Providence. First Profession of vows was in 1935 and Final Profession in 1941.

Sister Providence earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mary Manse College and a Master of Arts from Wayne State University in preparation for a ministry of teaching that spanned **56** years of her religious life. Traversing the State of Michigan, Sister taught the primary and middle grades at St. Mary, Alpena; St. Stanislaus, St. Hedwig and St. Hyacinth, Bay City; Help of Christians, St. Josephat and Resurrection in Detroit; St. Michael and St. Edith, Livonia; St. Therese, Wayland; St. Francis, Flint; St. Stanislaus, Dorr; St. Valentine, Beaver, St. Florian, Hamtramck; Holy Rosary, Cedar. Four of her teaching years were at St. Adalbert, South Bend, Indiana.

Sister Providence served as the Local Minister of the Provincial House from 1973-1976 and as office aide from 1992-1994. Her last assignment was in Maryville Center, Holly. Sister retired from active ministry in 2002 and for the last eight years fulfilled various duties at St. Joseph Convent, Livonia, along with the ministry of prayer.

At 4:40 a.m. in the early morning of March 13, 2010, her life ebbed peacefully away. Sister Providence returned to the Lord whom she so faithfully served for 97 years, 78 in religious life. She is survived by many nieces and nephews.

Translation services were conducted on Monday, March 15, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. by Reverend Timothy Babcock, Chaplain. Morning Prayer followed at 10:15 a.m. The Mass of Resurrection was celebrated at 10:30 a.m. in the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Chapel, Livonia, Michigan. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield, Michigan.