

Sister Imogene Palen, CSA, Ph.D.

Sister Imogene Palen, CSA, Ph.D., 90, a long-time professor at Marian College, died Friday, February 11, 2005, at St. Francis Home in Fond du Lac.

Sister Imogene was born April 25, 1914, in Modoc, Kansas, a daughter of Nicholas and Catherine Corpstein Palen.

She entered the Congregation of St. Agnes from Hays, Kansas, and professed vows Aug. 15, 1935.



Sister Imogene received her Bachelor of Science degree from Marquette University and her Ph.D. in microbiology from Loyola University in Chicago. Sister was one of the first professors of Marian College in Fond du Lac when it opened its doors in 1936, teaching math to students that summer.

Having taught junior high and high school in Wisconsin for ten years, Sister began teaching full-time at Marian College in 1950, where she specialized in the field of microbiology. In conjunction with her work at Marian College, Sister also served as co-director of the general lab and bacteriology department at St. Agnes Hospital from 1949 to 1962. Throughout her years at Marian College, Sister Imogene, along with her teaching, did research with a special focus on the Rotavirus, a virus that principally affects infants and small children.

In May 1981, Sister Imogene was honored by Marian College as a Professor Emerita. She continued ministering at Marian College teaching part-time and continuing her research until 1994. Sister served on the General Council of the Congregation from 1963 to 1969 while she taught part-time at Marian College.

Throughout her life, Sister had a special interest in the history of the Congregation of St. Agnes. She did in-depth research on the founders and history of the Congregation and published three books sharing her research: *Fieldstones* (1969), *Fieldstones in Fond du Lac* (1970), and *Fieldstones '76* (1976). She also published an article on the history of St. John the Baptist Parish in Johnsburg along with other articles in the field of science.

Survivors include her sister, Armella "Pat" McKee of Melbourne, Florida; nieces; nephews; cousins; and members of the Congregation of St. Agnes with whom she lived and ministered.

Sister Imogene was preceded in death by her sisters, Zita and Evelyn Palen; and her brothers, Lawrence, Donald, Hilarius and Joseph Palen.

• **Services:** A Liturgy of Christian Burial will be held at 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday, February 15, 2005, at St. Francis Home Chapel, 33 Everett St. Burial will be held at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday morning, February 16, at St. Joseph's Springs Cemetery.

• **Visitation:** Visitation will be from 1 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, February 15, 2005, at Nazareth Court, 375 Gillett Street, where a prayer service will be held at 4 p.m.

Zacherl Funeral Home is serving the Congregation of St. Agnes.