

Sister Rita Gaul (Nicola), 86

Sept. 28, 1920 - Oct. 6, 2006

CAMPBELLSPORT, WI — Rita Gaul, daughter of Paul and Magdalene Gaul, was born Sept. 28, 1920, in Earling. She was baptized, received First Communion and confirmed in St. Joseph's Church in Earling. She graduated from St. Joseph's Grade and High School in Earling. In 1938, after graduation from high school, Rita entered the School Sisters of St. Francis in Milwaukee, WI. After completing one year at Alverno College, Milwaukee, WI, she became a Novice in the SSSF Community, in 1939 receiving the name Sister Nicola. She was received into the School Sisters of St. Francis community June 13, 1939 and made profession of vows June 21, 1941. Sister Rita lived her religious ministry as a teacher, principal and care-provider for older adults in Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska and Iowa.

In the Archdiocese of Chicago, Sister taught at St. Nicholas School in Chicago (1942 – 1947). In the Diocese of La Crosse, WI, Sister taught at St. Boniface School in Waumandee (1947 – 1949). In the Diocese of New Ulm, MN, Sister Rita taught at Holy Trinity School in Winsted (1949 – 1961). In the Archdiocese of Omaha, NE, Sister taught and was principal at St. Boniface High School in Elgin (1961 – 1967), taught at Ryan High School in Omaha (1975 – 1983), taught at Duchesne High School in Omaha (1983 – 1984), and taught at Our Lady of Lourdes School in Omaha (1984 – 1990). In the Diocese of Lincoln, NE, Sister taught at Aquinas High School in David City (1967 – 1975). In the Diocese of Des Moines, Sister served as a nurse aide at Universal Home Health in Audubon (1995 – 1996), provided care for older adults as a nurse aide in Shelby County, (1996 – 1997) and at St. Joseph Parish in Earling, (1997 – 2006). Sister also volunteered at St. Joseph Convent in Campbellsport, WI, where she lived (2006). She died Oct. 6, 2006, as the result of a car accident in St. Croix County, west of Hudson, WI at age 86.

Sister Rita was preceded in death by her parents, Paul and Lena Gaul; her brothers, Wilfred, Gregory, Paul Jr. and Donald Gaul; and her sisters, Rita, Mildred Gromak, Lucille Stangl (Pat) and Joanne Harding (Lee). She is survived by a sister, Irene Goetzinger (Virg) of Alma, MI, a brother, Joseph (Lil) Gaul of Benson, AZ; nieces and nephews, other relatives and the School Sisters of St. Francis.

A funeral Mass was held Oct. 11, 2006 at St. Joseph Convent in Campbellsport, WI. Burial was at Sisters' Cemetery in Campbellsport, WI.

