



## Sister Georgiana Blum, FSPA, 90

March 3, 1906-Aug. 8, 1996

La Crosse, WI - Sister Georgiana Blum, FSPA, 90, died Aug. 8, 1996, at Villa St. Joseph, La Crosse. She was in the 66 year of her religious profession.

Sister Georgiana was born to Benedict J. and Anna Marie (Schwartz) Blum March 3, 1906 in Westphalia. She was the seventh child in a family of 14 children, five of whom entered the religious life. On March 5 she was baptized at St. Boniface Church, Westphalia, where she was given the name Walburga. She attended St. Boniface School, completing the eighth grade in 1919, after which time she stayed home to help with the

household duties and to care for her brothers and sisters. Walburga entered St. Rose Convent Aug. 19, 1926. She was invested with the habit and received the name Sister Georgiana June 27, 1928. She pronounced first vows Aug. 12, 1930 and final vows July 20, 1936.

Sister Georgiana received a bachelor's degree in science from St. Ambrose College, Davenport, and a master's degree from Marquette University with a major in zoology. She won numerous National Science Foundation grants and did post-graduate work at the Universities of Alaska, California-Los Angeles, Florida, San Francisco, Tulane University in New Orleans, LA, and Marshall University in Huntington, WV. Entering the teaching profession, she taught elementary through college level students for 41 years in Iowa, Kentucky, Montana and Wisconsin. From 1971-76 she ministered in Harlan, Kentucky, teaching at the school of nursing there.

From 1976-83, she served as Viterbo College Museum Curator. During these years the button, doll, and textile collections were sorted and classified under her meticulous care. She retired to St. Rose Convent in 1985 and to Villa St. Joseph in 1989.

Sister Georgiana is survived by her Franciscan Community including her sister, Sister Rose Blum, FSPA, Villa St. Joseph; a sister, Ms. Marie Blum; a brother, Vincent (Mary Ann) Blum; and a sister-in-law, Mrs. Laurina Blum, all of Harlan; and many nieces and nephews. Sister Georgiana was preceded in death by ten siblings including Sister Hermanita Blum, FSPA in 1969 and Sister Marie Ann Blum, FSPA in 1985 and Brother George Blum, SJ.

Reverend James Heiar, SVD, Divine Word College, Epworth presided at the Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 12, 1996 in Maria Angelorum Chapel. He was assisted by Reverend Thomas O'Neill, Viterbo College Chaplain. Reverend Benedict Kenkel, Pastor, St. Mary's Parish, Guthrie Center gave the homily. Burial was in Gate of Heaven Catholic Cemetery, La Crosse.