Memorial Resolution for Miss Irene Harbeck

If by the good life we mean personal fulfillment and dedication to human welfare, then it can be truly said that Miss Irene Harbeck lived such a life. Those who came in contact with her felt and admired her quiet strength which never faltered in the face of illness and adversity. To them she was a deeply religious person, a thoughtful and considerate friend. Her creative spirit found expression through teaching, writing, and engaging in a variety of art and craft activities.

Miss Harbeck, who died July 22, 1965, at the age of seventy-six, was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan in 1889. A two-year graduate of Milwaukee Normal School, Miss Harbeck continued her work at Teachers College, Columbia University, where she received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees.

During the course of her teaching career which spanned forty years, Miss Harbeck taught young children in Appleton, La Crosse, Phoenix, and Milwaukee. Thirty-two of these years were spent as a teacher of Kindergarten, first, and second grades in the elementary school of the Normal School, Milwaukee, and its successors, Milwaukee State Teachers College, Wisconsin State College, Milwaukee. She retired in June, 1954.

Intensely interested in art, Miss Harbeck studied under Robert von Neumann, attended the Cranbrook Institute of Art at Birmingham, Michigan, had paintings on exhibition, and was a member of the Wisconsin Designer Craftsmen. She was co-author with Samuel A. Thorn of a series of elementary science books -- "Science and Conservation".

A Thomist, Miss Harbeck served as chairman of the Milwaukee Thomist Association for seventeen years. This leadership role, too, denotes the quality of Miss Harbeck's intellectual and religious pursuits.

After she retired from teaching Miss Harbeck devoted her time to church and community service and to the pursuit of arts and crafts. She gave unstintingly of her time to Catholic welfare and to the Travelers' Aid Society. It can be said without reservation that society is better for Irene Harbeck's having lived.

Sincere sympathy is extended to her sisters, Mrs. Julie Geary, and Mrs. J. Grant (Rosalind) Sandison, her brother Robert, and their respective families.

Lucille Burgdorf
Elizabeth Wheeler
Anthony Ingrelli, Chairman