

## Sister Mary Louise Higdon



Sister Mary Louise Higdon, 97, of the Order of St. Francis in Clinton died Wednesday, March 22, 2006, at Mercy Medical Center in Clinton.

A Mass of the Resurrection was held Monday, March 27, at The Canticle at Mount St. Clare Convent in Clinton with the Rev. Anthony Herold as president. Burial was in St. Irenaeus Cemetery in Clinton.

She was born April 18, 1908, in Grinnell, the daughter of Louis E. and Catherine Anne Devercaux Higdon. She was baptized as Margaret Teresa on May 10, 1908, at St. Mary's Church in Grinnell. She attended public elementary school and high school in Grinnell and graduated from Mount St. Clare Academy in Clinton in 1926. She entered the congregation of the Sisters of St. Francis at Mount St. Clare Convent on Oct. 4, 1927, receiving the name of Mary Louise at her profession on April 17, 1933. She received the associate of arts degree from Mount St. Clare College in 1930 and the bachelor of science degree from DePaul University in Chicago in 1936. She also studied at Loyola University, Chicago; National Teachers College, Evanston, Ill., and the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls. She held an Iowa Advanced Elementary Teaching Certificate.

She spent most of her 54 years of active ministry as a kindergarten and primary teacher. Her first mission in 1930 was St. Francis de Paula School in Chicago where she later returned, serving for a total of 13 years. She taught at St. Patrick School, Clinton, for 20 years, also as a methods instructor and critic teacher for the Mount St. Clare College teacher training program. She also taught in Varina and Denison. Her final mission assignment was Reedley, Calif., 1971 to 1979, after which she returned to Clinton to serve as part-time kindergarten assistant at Mount St. Clare and at Sacred Heart School. She retired to Mount St. Clare Convent in 1984, then moving to The Alverno Health Care Facility in 1994.

She is survived by two brothers, James and John Higdon of Grinnell and one sister Mildred of Rockwell City. She was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers Joseph and Frank and two sisters, Mary (Sister Annette) and Elizabeth.