

November 14, 1935

Dear Alice and Family,

It is a consolation to know that Mama was satisfied her time had come. Hard as it is for me to bear the thought that she is gone forever I do think she is happier now. At least she won't have to suffer any more. Was anyone with her in her last moments? Was she conscious up to the last?

Thank heavens you all plan to keep close together after the first shock had passed that worried me the most. Cecilia especially needs taking care of. Alice, keep your eye on her because she does do the wildest things. Cecilia do take either Clara or Alice into your confidence because you are going to have a lot of temptations to overcome and you will need someone older and more experienced than yourself to guide you. Have recourse to prayer and don't ever forget that I'll be praying for you constantly down here.

Did any of you think to take a picture of Mama? If you did both Mary and I would like a copy of it.

Mother told me the sad news about ten o'clock. Mary was sent for and arrived here after one o'clock. She was weeping violently because she had just been told but I was more composed as I had already cried a lot of it out of my system. She stayed all that night and till about four-thirty the next day. During a big part of that time we were visiting together. We talked mostly about the family and the things we have done and the things we hope you will do. Let us know soon just what your plans are. Do you intend to sell the house, all live together, rent an apartment, or what? It's hard just sitting here and having to wait for details.

I am very happy that Mama was able to see all the relatives before she died. If it hadn't been for Gene it never would have happened. He deserves our thanks and for my part I'll never forget him in my prayers. She would have wanted to see them all once more if she had known she was leaving us so soon.

Mama has received many prayers since she left us. The first night Mass and Communion for the following day were offered for the repose of her soul by the whole house. Tuesday we recited the *Ale Profundis* beads in her memory while I worked in the laundry. Sisters kept coming to me and telling me they were offering their prayers, Masses, Communions, and good works for her. I am sending you two Spiritual Bouquets which were given to me. Put them away carefully for I don't want them to get lost. Alice, I think it would be very nice if you would write and thank the donors in the name of the family. You could even write a special letter to the pastor who drew them, Mary Martinez. She is a special friend of Sister Clarine's, who taught her sisters — took charge of them would be more like it because they are pretty well grown up. She's a very good friend of mine too.

Katherine Radich wrote to me. Her address is 156 Arlington Street. While you're thinking of it will you please phone her and tell her how glad I was to hear from her. Tell her I appreciate her remembrance of me. Explain to her that I can't write but that I shall always be glad to hear from her. I do remember her and all my friends in my prayers but tell her I'll pray for her particularly so she'll get work. Please do that darling, because she and I chummed around together in school.

Love,
Helen