

April 25, 2001

Did not our hearts burn within us as Jesus talked to us along the road?
(Antiphon to the Magnificat- Tuesday, Week 2 of Easter)

Dear Sisters,

Last evening our Risen Lord revealed Himself to our dear Sister Marcia. Throughout this Easter-tide, Sister was accompanied by the prayer of many sisters. For days and nights they faithfully sat beside her bed in silent prayer and waited with her for the Lord's coming.



Sister M. Marcia - Anna Gasdacka
Born: February 24, 1911 in Bethlehem, PA
Professed : August 26, 1930
Died: April 24, 2001 in Reading, PA

Sister Marcia's acquaintance with our congregation began with her grade school days. At that time, our sisters staffed the local parish school which had been opened in 1909 for the children of Slovak immigrants. When she was just 13 years of age, Sister entered the aspirancy in Reading.

After her profession, Sister Marcia began her ministry of teaching. During the next 50 years, Sister was missioned to Lansford, Palmerton, Reading, Allentown, Coplay, and Philadelphia. Sister Marcia served God's people and the congregation as a primary school teacher, principal, accomplished parish organist, and local superior. In 1984, her love of the students drew Sister out of retirement at Villa St. Elizabeth and back into the classroom where she served as a teacher-aide until 1991. Sister then retired to St. Michael's but continued to play the organ for a local parish church until 1997 when she suffered a stroke.

Sister Marcia was well loved and respected by her students. She was a prayerful woman who took the obligations of religious life very seriously. In community, her pleasant disposition, love of fun, thoughtfulness, and concern for the sisters and their families endeared her to many.

During the four years she spent as a patient in Holy Family Center, Sister Marcia's love of music remained an important part of her life. Just before Easter, Sister suffered another stroke which then led to her death. We are grateful to Sister for the inspiration of her long and fruitful life.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated for Sister Marcia on Friday, April 27, 2001, at 3:30 p.m. One of her former students, Rev. Francis Straka, will be the main celebrant. After the liturgy, Sister will be laid to rest in our convent cemetery.

United in the Risen Lord,

Sister Marie Clark, n.s.c.