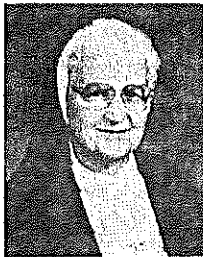


March 30, 2000

“You have set us apart from all the peoples of the earth for your inheritance.”  
(Kings 8:53a - reading from Morning Prayer for Lent)

Dear Sisters,

Early this morning, Sister Donna Marie quietly joined the ranks of those who are set apart to share in the inheritance of our loving God.



Sister Donna Marie - Magdalen Martinko  
Born: November 10, 1913 in Allentown, Pennsylvania  
Professed: August 26, 1933  
Died: March 30, 2000 in Reading, Pennsylvania

Sister Donna Marie's journey in religious life began in September of 1927 when she and her half-sister, Sister Antonette, joined our aspirancy. Just ten days previous to their entrance Sister Donna Marie's sister, Sister Helen Marie who died in 1984, made her first vows as an MSC.

Throughout her long life Sister Donna Marie combined a deep spirituality with a highly intellectually developed mind. Her leadership qualities were recognized in the early days of her professed life when she was appointed a nursing supervisor shortly after completing her training at Sacred Heart Hospital.

Sister Donna Marie remained in Allentown from 1934 until 1955. She was then appointed Administrator and Superior of Sacred Heart Hospital in Norristown. She later served in this same capacity at St. Mary's in Athens, Georgia.

Vatican II brought changes to the church and the community. Sister's pastoral and spiritual leadership unfolded more deeply in the next phase of her life when she was part of a province renewal team. This led her to become a pastoral minister.

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In the early 1970's, Sister combined this ministry with her gift of administration at St. Joseph's Health Resort in Wedron, Illinois. She later returned to the hospital and served as a pastoral minister in Allentown for 11 years.

Sister took these skills to Australia in 1988 where she generously shared her knowledge and talents with our sisters in their hospital in Melbourne. Upon her return in 1989, Sister Donna Marie was missioned to Athens, Georgia where she continued her ministry on a part-time basis until retiring to St. Michael's in 1992.

During her years of retirement, Sister Donna Marie remained keenly interested in world and community events. She generously shared her spiritual wisdom with old and young alike. She was truly a woman of prayer and a daughter of today's Church.

Within the past few weeks, Sister's health deteriorated quickly. She spent some days in the intensive care unit of the local hospital and was able to return to our Health Care Unit on March 24.

On the day of our congregational centennial, it was a special joy for her to receive a visit from our Bishop, the Rev. Edward Cullen, who was at St. Michael's for our celebration. From the time of this very personal meeting, Sister Donna Marie was, for the most part, more alert and able to communicate with those around her. Around 1:00 this morning, Sister's condition became critical. She died very peacefully at 5:15 a.m., accompanied by the prayer and love of one of the very first sister nurses she had supervised at Sacred Heart over 60 years ago.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated for Sister Donna Marie on Monday, April 3, 2000, at 11:00 a.m. Her nephew, Rev. Richard Biasiotto, OFM, will preside at the Liturgy. Sister will then be laid to rest in our convent cemetery.

United in love and prayer,

*Sister Marie Clark, n.s.c.*