

December 28, 1999

*One of his disciples, the one whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to Him.  
John 13:23*

Dear Sisters,

During the last moments of the day on which we celebrate the feast of St. John the Apostle, Jesus called our dear Sister M. Alma to rest *her* head on his heart for all eternity.



Sister M. Alma - Agatha Riering  
Born: September 24, 1901 in Billerbeck, Germany  
Professed: September 2, 1931  
Died: December 27, 1999 in Reading, PA

Sister Alma, the youngest of a very large family, was preceded in death by her two MSC sisters, Agapita and Engelharda. These three enjoyed the company of 5 cousins who were MSC. Sister Richtrud, MSC, whom so many of us have met in our visits to Hiltrup and the original farm house, is a niece of our dear departed Sister.

On May 22, 1931 while still a novice, Sister Alma arrived in the United States. From 1931 until her retirement to the Health Care Unit in 1988 Sister Alma generously shared her cooking skills in various houses of the congregation. Her two longest assignments were at the retreat house in Malvern (1937-1955) and Sacred Heart Hospital in Norristown (1955-1969). Sister also served in Dayton, Pottsville, Coaldale, Haycock and St. Michael's, Reading as well as Villa St. Elizabeth. Sister Alma was a hard worker whose spirit of joy was an inspiration to her sisters and co-workers.

In her years at Holy Family Center Sister Alma was dedicated to making rosaries. For many years she set herself a quota of ten each day. This was a practical way for her to express her great devotion to Mary and to continue her missionary vocation. Sister's spirit of prayer pervaded her days and nights.

Despite her 98 years Sister Alma was until very recently able to move around freely with the help of her walker. Her recovery from a broken hip some years ago was complete. Over the past weeks Sister showed signs of growing weakness and yesterday it became evident that the end was near.

Sister Alma was the eldest in our Province and leaves us a special legacy of the true meaning of joy. Sisters remember well the spirit of generosity and kindness which always accompanied her good meals. In later years, despite her deafness, she always welcomed a visitor graciously and was thankful for every kind deed.

I recall one Christmas, a few years ago, when Sister Alma told me over and over how joyful she was because Jesus was born and we had a Savior. Just as Alma rejoiced in the birth of Jesus, we rejoice with her as she is united to her MSC Sisters and the whole heavenly choir, and will welcome in the new millennium from her throne in heaven.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated for Sister Alma on Thursday, December 30, 1999. Afterwards she will be laid to rest in our convent cemetery.

Yours in the love of Jesus,

*Sister Marie Clark, MSC*