

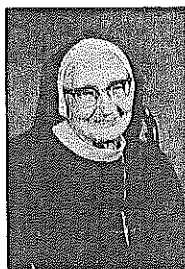
August 3, 2001

“My soul yearns and pines for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh  
cry out to the living God.”

Responsorial Psalm, Thursday, Week 18 of ordinary time.

Dear Sisters,

Last evening at about 8:30 p.m., our dear Sister Bernhilde was called to her eternal happiness.



Sister M. Bernhilde - Franziska Guenther  
Born: July 23, 1908 in Verne, Germany  
Professed: September 10, 1929  
Died : August 2, 2001 in Reading, PA

Sister Bernhilde's association with the congregation began in 1923 when she was received as an aspirant. Sister arrived in the U.S.A. in May of 1931 and in September of that same year she was assigned to teaching. For the next ten years, Sister taught the primary grades in the parish schools of Northampton, Allentown, Philadelphia, and Reading.

Shortly after Villa St. Elizabeth, a home for the aged, was opened, Sister began a long and fruitful ministry as caregiver for the elderly. In addition to providing personal services, Sister Bernhilde also did housework and played the organ.

In 1968 Sister was sent to another home for the elderly, that of the Knights of St. George in Wellsburg, Virginia. It was a special joy for Sister when Bishop Schulte paid the sisters a visit in September of 1986. He had warm words of praise and thanksgiving especially for Sister Bernhilde who years before had cared for his mother at Villa St. Elizabeth.

Sister remained in Wellsburg until the sisters were withdrawn in 1987 and with quiet fidelity and love performed her duties as organist and the person in charge of the resident's dining room.

Sister Bernhilde's spirit of love and concern for others characterized her life until the very end. Sister was always friendly and despite growing frailty she retained a very prayerful spirit and was eager to participate as much as possible in the life of the community.

Sister Bernhilde suffered a stroke just two days before her 93rd birthday. In quiet and deep longing she waited for the coming of her bridegroom. On the eve of the First Friday of the month, accompanied by the prayer of her sisters, Sister Bernhilde was released from years of suffering. The Mass of Christian Burial will be offered for Sister at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, August 6, the Feast of the Transfiguration. She will then be laid to rest in our convent cemetery.

United in the Risen Lord,

*Sister Maria Clark, U.S.C.*