

October 16, 2000

“We have given up everything and followed you.”
(Gospel - 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Dear Sisters,

In the deep of the night, our good and gracious God called Sister M. Clodwiga to her eternal reward.



Sister M. Clodwiga - Maria Plum
Born: April 22, 1908 in Merkstein, Germany
Professed: August 16, 1933
Died: October 15, 2000 in Reading, PA

In 1932, Sister Clodwiga left all to follow Jesus. Having said what she believed to be a final farewell to her family, Sister arrived in the United States just two years after her first profession.

Sister Clodwiga was sent to Sacred Heart Hospital in Allentown where she trained as a nurse. Immediately after graduation from Sacred Heart, Sister became a supervisor and an anesthetist in Norristown. She then completed her nursing education at the University of Dayton and returned to Norristown as a clinical instructor until 1963. Between 1963 and her retirement in 1985, Sister ministered to the sick in various capacities in Pottsville, Athens, Wedron, Limeport, and Wellsburg.

Throughout her long years in the ministry of nursing, Sister Clodwiga's ethic of hard work and hands-on service never faltered. Without counting the cost, Sister always gave generously of her time and energy. Her direct manner and sense of humor endeared her to patients and colleagues alike.

These same characteristics remained with Sister after she joined St. Michael's community in Reading. Until 1992, Sister was a faithful and ever-ready companion to elderly and sick sisters who needed assistance when visiting the doctor.

When her own health prevented her from continuing this ministry, Sister's part-time responsibility became her main activity. With great love and precision, she sorted, cut, and

prepared used greeting cards to be sent to all corners of the globe. Even after a serious heart condition forced her to move to Holy Family Healthcare Unit, she continued to do as much as possible.

As Sister Clodwiga's energy and health declined, her interest in the congregation and the ministries of the sisters never waned. She always looked forward to news and in her inimitable way would question and offer her opinion about each event. Her sense of humor and her many years of experience as nursing supervisor remained with her until the end.

Sister Clodwiga had strong and loving ties with her family in Germany. They were very faithful in calling her whenever they gathered for family events. She often spoke with love of her siblings and their families. Sister was especially blessed with the friendship of her brother's daughter who lives in Canada. In fact, she invited her to visit for our family centennial celebration on October 8. Linda was with Sister throughout this special day and was able to accompany her to the hospital the following morning.

Around noon on October 14, we were informed that Sister's condition was critical. With the doctor's permission, she was brought back to the convent early that evening. Her death came sooner than expected. During her last hours, she was accompanied by the devotion of our nursing staff who remained with her until God called her home at 1:30 a.m.

We thank Sister for her example of the following of Christ as a Missionary Sister of the Sacred Heart. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated for Sister Clodwiga on Tuesday, October 17, 2000, at 4:00 p.m. She will then be laid to rest in our convent cemetery.

United in prayer,

Sister Marie Clark, u.s.c.