

June 5, 1998

“The mercies of the Lord, I will sing forever.”

Dear Sisters,

Early in the afternoon of this First Friday of June, God called home the eldest member of our province, Sister Debora, to sing the mercies of God’s heart forever.



Sister M. Debora - Josepha Kaup
Born: December 9, 1900 in Muenster, Germany
First Profession: September 9, 1928
Died: June 5, 1998 in Reading, PA

Sister Debora was preceded into the congregation by her sister Maria (Sister M. Kajetana) who died in 1971. In May of 1930, Sister Debora was missioned to the United States. That same year, she began a ministry of love as homemaker and dietician which extended over sixty years. Sister’s first two assignments were with the Marianist Brothers in Columbus and Dayton, Ohio. In the mid-fifties, Sister worked as sacristan and seamstress at Sacred Heart Seminary in Geneva, Illinois. These years of service to future brothers and priests are still appreciated by them today.

Almost thirty years of Sister Debora’s life were spent cooking and baking for the elderly in Wellsburg, West Virginia and at Villa St. Elizabeth in Reading. She is remembered as a very kind and gracious woman who never shunned a difficult task.

In 1975 Sister Debora began part-time work at St. Michael’s in the diet kitchen and in later years in the sewing room. Sister’s direct ministry to the community ended in 1992 when declining health necessitated a move to our Health Care Center.

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During the last years of her life, Sister Debora suffered much from pain and from a severe hearing loss. Her resolute character enabled her to retain an independent spirit and fidelity to prayer. Even days before her death, Sister attended Holy Mass and joined in the singing.

On May 17, Sister celebrated her seventieth anniversary of vows. It was a joyous occasion in which she was able to participate fully. It seemed as if Sister had been living for this day, as shortly after the Province Jubilee celebration there was a noticeable decline in her well-being. Slowly Sister withdrew from us. During the last 24 hours of her life, Sister Debora was surrounded by the prayer of her sisters and quietly returned her spirit to God. She who was homemaker for so many is now at home in the courts of her Lord.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated for our dear departed Sister Debora on Monday, June 8, 1998, at 3:30 p.m. She will then be laid to rest in our convent cemetery.

Yours in the Heart of Jesus,

Sister Marie Clark, n.s.c.