

May 20, 2002

Both in life and death, we are the Lord's.
(Rom. 14: 8 Morning Prayer-Vigil of Pentecost)

Dear Sisters,

Early in the morning on the day of our Province Jubilee celebration, our dear Sister Elaine was called home by her Divine Bridegroom to celebrate the eternal nuptials.



Sister M. Elaine - Mary H. Krizovensky
Born: August 31, 1917 in Swedeland, PA
Professed: August 26, 1940
Died: May 18, 2002 in Reading, PA

Sister Elaine's parents were both born in Czechoslovakia. Sister entered our congregation as an aspirant in 1935 and after first profession began her long ministry of loving service to others as a member of St. Michael's community.

After final vows, Sister Elaine was missioned to the orphanage in Coopersburg. The twenty-one years Sister spent here were always very dear to her heart. In the early years, she cared for the pre-school and kindergarten children. Later, Sister was responsible for about 30 youngsters who ranged in age from eight months to five years. Sister Elaine is remembered today by many as a loving mother.

Obedience then called Sister to the service of the elderly. She did this in Wedron, Illinois and at Villa St. Elizabeth in Reading. Her dedication to others was also lived out in the ten years of night duty she spent in our Motherhouse health care unit from 1975 to 1985. After this assignment and until Sister's own health no longer permitted it, she spent many years accompanying our elderly sisters to their various doctor appointments.

Sister Elaine had a great love of Mary and the prayerful spirit of a missionary. Throughout her life she did not shirk the difficulties of ministry. Sister Elaine had a great zest for life and a deep interest in the people whom she served. She also loved music and enjoyed playing the accordion at community functions.

In recent years Sister was transferred to the health care unit because of the advancing symptoms of Alzheimer's Disease. Despite confusion, Sister Elaine's friendly ways and loving heart stayed with her until the end. She was loved by the nursing staff and added much joy to their lives.

Three weeks ago, Sister's health began to deteriorate drastically. During the last few days of her life, she was accompanied by the prayers of her sisters who kept vigil at her bedside. Sister Elaine quietly and peacefully returned her beautiful soul to God last Saturday morning at 7:15 a.m.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated for Sister Elaine on Tuesday, May 21, 2002 at 3:30 p.m. She will then be laid to rest in our convent cemetery. The main presider at the liturgy, Father Justin Withrow, is one of the many children she mothered so well during her years of service in Coopersburg. His presence at her funeral is a fitting token of appreciation from the many who experienced Sister Elaine as a loving Missionary Sister of the Sacred Heart.

United in Jesus' love,

Sister Marie Clark, MSC