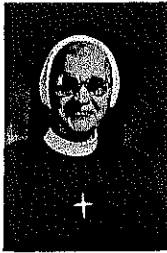


September 23, 2000

“O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful one.”
(Evening Prayer for the Feast of St. Matthew)

Dear Sisters,

Shortly after the community of St. Michael's completed the psalms of evening prayer, God called to Himself his faithful servant and bride, Sister M. Frances.



Sister M. Frances - Mary A. Jakubco
Born: August 22, 1917 in Lansford, PA
Professed: August 26, 1937
Died: September 21, 2000 in Reading, PA

As a young girl, Sister Frances followed her sister, Sister M. Rosella, into our congregation and joined our aspirancy. Their family was blessed by God in a very special way and their youngest brother, Bernard, also became an MSC priest. Sister Frances is the first of her seven siblings to enter eternal life.

After profession, Sister Frances began a long and fruitful ministry as an elementary school teacher and was missioned to a variety of our parish schools. Between 1937 and 1985, Sister taught every level from kindergarten to eighth grade in Allentown, Reading, Coopersburg, Northampton, Lansford, and Athens, Georgia. After almost 50 years of teaching, Sister slowed down and served as a librarian and part-time religion teacher.

Sister's teaching career ended in 1990 when she was assigned to St. Michael's. She had been a member of Holy Family Community these past few years where she bore patiently the trial of declining strength and painful recuperation from various surgeries.

Sister is remembered as a dedicated teacher and a very generous and kind community member. Many of her summers were spent in teaching the younger sisters various methods courses in education. She was also part of a diocesan program to educate teachers in the so-called modern math. Her students knew her as firm and loving.

Frances was always a faithful MSC, conscientious and committed to a life of prayer. She took great pride in her priest brother, Bernard, and supported him with love and prayer throughout his priestly ministry, both here and while he was in Papua New Guinea.

Sister Frances' death came very unexpectedly. She had fallen in her room that morning but insisted that she was all right. Shortly after dinner, it was noted that her speech was slurred. Sister was immediately transported to St. Joseph Hospital and was accompanied by one of our sisters who stayed with her in the emergency room.

By the time she reached the hospital, Sister appeared to have lost consciousness. The chaplain was called and we were notified that her condition was critical.

Sister Frances died after several of us prayed for her and offered the chaplet of Divine Mercy, one of her favorite prayers. Sister died in the emergency room at 5:20 p.m. while preparations were being made to transport her to the Intensive Care Unit. It was my privilege and also that of one of our lay nurses to be with Sister when she passed from this world into eternal life.

Sister Frances' sudden death reminds us all that we know not the day nor the hour. However, her life of fidelity, prayer, and loving concern modeled for us a path to eternal glory through the acceptance of life's challenges and difficulties. We are grateful to Sister Frances for her example and her friendship shared so generously with many during her long and fruitful life as an MSC.

On Tuesday, September 26, 2000, at 11:00 a.m., the Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by her brother, Father Bernard Jakubco, MSC. Sister will then be laid to rest in our convent cemetery.

United in prayer,

Sister Marie Clark, MSC