

April 1, 2002

I believe that my Redeemer lives! Alleluia!

Dear Sisters,

Last Wednesday, on the eve of the Triduum, our Redeemer called our dear Sister Geraldine to enter into the glory of His Resurrection.



Sister M. Geraldine - Margaret Vanic
Born: October 21, 1916 in Bethlehem, PA
Professed: August 26, 1937
Died: March 27, 2002 in Reading, PA

Sister Geraldine came to know our sisters as a child in primary school. At the age of 15 she entered the aspirancy. Her first ministry was that of teaching in the parish schools of Northampton and Lansford.

Shortly after her final vows, Sister Geraldine began a long struggle with tuberculosis. She was a patient for about five years and during this time one of her lungs had to be removed. Upon recovery, Sister Geraldine learned the art of laboratory technology. For the next 13 years, she served as laboratory supervisor in Sacred Heart Hospitals in Norristown, Allentown, and at Good Samaritan Hospital in Pottsville.

From 1971 until 1990 Sister held administrative positions at the Trexler Home in Limeport where years before she had been a patient and also at Sacred Heart Hospital, Allentown. During the course of these years, Sister Geraldine was also twice local superior of the sisters' community. After all these years of ministry, Geraldine welcomed a year of grace and rest in which she made a sabbatical program in Canada.

She then took up her last ministry assignment with joy and fidelity. Sister served as co-ordinator for a small group of sisters in Holy Family Health Center. She was a faithful patient visitor and often shared the deep graces gathered during her sabbatical as well as the international renewal program which she had made in 1983.

With time, Sister Geraldine's frail health forced her to limit her activity within the Motherhouse complex. She kept going as long as she could and managed to do so with dogged determination until just a few days before her death. Her brave and bold heart provided the same courage and strength which had characterized her long years of ministry.

Geraldine had a gentle spirit which gradually opened to the new. She had a deep trust in God and a profound sense of gratitude for God's love for her and the gifts of friendship, community, and family.

Sister Geraldine died in St. Joseph Medical Center in Reading and was accompanied on her final journey by the prayer of a MSC Sister friend as well as one of our faithful lay nurses. Although we all knew of her great weakness, her death was unexpected and a source of much sorrow to us. In faith we give her back to God and trust in His love and the sure and certain promise of eternal life.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated for Sister Geraldine on Tuesday, April 2, 2002 at 11:00 am. She will then be laid to rest in our convent cemetery.

United in the Risen Lord,

Sister Marie Clark, MSC