

April 14, 2002

“My heart is glad and my soul rejoices. My body, too, abides in confidence.”

(Responsorial Psalm - Third Sunday of Easter)

Dear Sisters,

After many years of patient suffering, our dear Sister Laura was called into the fullness of Easter joy.



Sister M. Laura - Mary Repik

Born: May 12, 1915 in Lansford, PA

Professed: August 26, 1934

Died: April 13, 2002 in Reading, PA

Sister Laura's parents immigrated to the United States from Czechoslovakia and settled in the town where our sisters were first called to minister in 1908. When Sister was 16, she joined the aspirant school and made her first vows a few months after her nineteenth birthday.

Sister's first assignment was to Worthington, Ohio where for the first five years of her religious life she assisted in the domestic services required to support Franciscan seminarians. She also worked for a short time with our MSC priests and brothers in Shelby, Ohio.

From 1942 until 1963, Sister Laura served the sick in the Trexler Home in Limeport and continued her loving service to others at St. Clara's Home in Allentown until she was transferred to St. Michael's in 1974. Sister Laura then turned her attention to the care of our sick and infirm sisters until 1992, when her own frailness forced her to become a patient.

Throughout the long years of ministry and the last eleven years of growing weakness and immobility, Sister Laura remained a most loving and patient person. She is remembered for her kindness and dedication as well as her most unassuming manner. Sister was always ready to provide a treat for others even in the days when that was not our custom. She had

a free and loving spirit which in the last years of her life was held captive in a body wracked with pain.

Sister Laura's prayerful spirit was outstanding. It manifested itself not only in fidelity to prayer, but in the living faith with which she ministered to Jesus in others throughout her life and in the graciousness and gratitude she bestowed on her caregivers. Her love for and interest in the community and the activities of the province and congregation never waned.

Throughout the years, Sister Laura was supported by the devotion of her five brothers. Their love and faithfulness to Sister was reciprocated by her devotion and concern for them and their families.

On April 3, Sister was hospitalized in need of blood transfusions and tests. A week later she took a turn for the worst and the sisters began a vigil at her hospital bed. She died peacefully around 11:00 p.m. last evening.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated for Sister Laura on Wednesday, April 17, 2002 at 11:00 a.m. She will then be laid to rest in our convent cemetery.

United in the Risen Lord,

*Sister Marie Clark, MSC*