

November 12, 2000

"I rejoiced when I heard them say: let us go to the house of the Lord."
(Responsorial Psalm - Friday - Week 31 of Ordinary Time)

Dear Sisters,

While the sisters of Holy Family Center prepared for the daily Liturgy, our dear Sister M. Lucida was called to rejoice forever in the heavenly Jerusalem.



Sister M. Lucida - Elizabeth Engelhardt
Born: November 25, 1906 in Allentown, PA
Professed: August 27, 1925
Died: November 10, 2000 in Reading, PA

Sister Lucida's parents immigrated from Germany to Allentown, Pennsylvania where Sister was raised. As a young girl, Sister Lucida knew the MSC Sisters as the angels of mercy who came to Allentown to care for the seriously ill during the diphtheria epidemic of 1912. In 1919, Sister Lucida was received into the aspirancy

As a young sister of 21 years, Sister Lucida began a teaching ministry which took her to our parish schools in Philadelphia, Lansford, Coplay, Reading, Illinois, Nazareth, Haycock, Palmerton, and Northampton. During the 53 years she devoted herself to the education of God's little ones, her sense of humor and zest for life endeared her to students, parents, and parishioners alike.

After a few months of rest, Sister Lucida embarked upon her second career. For eight years she served as a patient visitor at Sacred Heart Hospital in Allentown. Sister's friendly manner brought joy and renewed spirits to patients and staff alike.

Sister retired to St. Michael's in 1989 and joined the community of Holy Family in 1992. Her great love of God and all of God's people which had characterized her long years of ministry were gifts she brought with her into retirement. Despite the handicaps of aging and a stroke, Sister Lucida kept her sense of humor and engaging manner.

Throughout her long religious life, Sister Lucida had a special love for community and a joyful spirit which radiated her love for God and others. This past September she was able to join in the Province Jubilee celebration from beginning to end. It was touching to see the large number of family and friends who came to St. Michael's to pay tribute to Sister on the occasion of her 75th Jubilee of vows.

During the past weeks, Sister's strength diminished steadily. She died peacefully on Friday, November 10, at 9:30 a.m., accompanied by the prayer of one of the sisters.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated for Sister Lucida on Tuesday, November 14, 2000, at 11:00 a.m. She will then be laid to rest in our convent cemetery.

United in prayer,

Sister Marie Clark, u.s.c.