

August 12, 1998

“With my whole being I worship Christ;  
I long for Him and desire to be with Him forever.”  
(Antiphon : Feast of Virgins)

Dear Sisters,

On the eve of the Feast of St. Clare, our dear Sister Margaret surrendered her life to her bridegroom.



Sister M. Margaret - Irene Anna Turek  
Born: November 1, 1927 in Palmerton, PA  
First Profession: August 18, 1947  
Died: August 10, 1998 in Reading, PA

Sister Margaret was associated with our congregation from her earliest days. Our sisters staffed her parish school and both she and her sister Margaret, now Sister M. Irene, MSC, entered our aspirancy.

Sister's first assignment was to the southern mission of Athens, Georgia. There as a kindergarten teacher, she began her long professional ministry of education. From 1950 until 1954, Sister was assigned to teach the second grade at St. Michael's in Lansford, PA. After finishing her professional studies at the University of Dayton, Sister Margaret taught at SS. Cyril & Methodius in Reading and St. Henry's in Philadelphia.

Because of her generous spirit and willingness to make the Sacred Heart of Jesus loved everywhere, Sister enthusiastically accepted her mission assignment to Papua New Guinea where she taught grades five and six and served as superior from 1958 to 1967. At the time of her first home visit, for reasons of health, Sister Margaret was reassigned to teach in the USA.

From 1967 until her transfer back to Lansford, Sister taught the elementary grades in our parish schools in Haycock, Slatington, Palmerton, Northampton and Reading. She also spent one year in special service to our senior sisters, and began her work as librarian in Copley from 1988 to 1992.

Sister Margaret's last six years of ministry were spent in Lansford where she served as school librarian and local coordinator. This past December, Sister was admitted to the hospital because of

sudden and repeatedly high fevers. After several periods of hospitalization, she came to Holy Family Center in April.

These past months, Sister Margaret was an active member of community, taking to her bed only when the fevers struck. On Sunday, in the midst of the gaiety of our Summerfest, Sister was admitted to Reading Hospital where, with her sister, Sister Irene, at her side, she received the diagnosis of acute leukemia. Our chaplain went to anoint Sister that afternoon. The following day she received Holy Communion and a second anointing from the parish priest. A few hours before her death, the Eucharistic ministers came and Sister Margaret held the sacred pyx in her hands while they prayed. Sister Margaret's longing and desire to be with her Lord was fulfilled just before 9 p.m. when, accompanied by the prayer and support of her loving sister and one of our nurses from Holy Family Center, she peacefully surrendered her soul to God.

We are grateful that Sister Margaret was able to celebrate her Golden Jubilee in 1997 and to join Sister Irene in her celebration this past May. Margaret was above all a faithful and loyal MSC sister. She loved our congregation and was a deeply prayerful woman committed to the Heart of Jesus. Sister Margaret's long years of apostolic service were characterized by a loving spirit which endeared her to the many, many students whom she taught and formed in the spirit of Christ. Her kind ways and joyful heart made Margaret a valued and much loved community member and local coordinator.

On Saturday, August 15, the Feast of Mary's Assumption, at 10:00 a.m., the Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated for our departed sister. Afterwards she will be laid to rest in our convent cemetery.

Yours in the Heart of Jesus,

*Sister Marie Clark, n.s.c.*