

October 2, 2002

“Lord Jesus, welcome my soul.”

Dear Sisters,

The above quote contains the words that our dear departed Sister Melchiades chose to be engraved on her tombstone. In the quiet of yesterday afternoon, the Feast of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, our gracious God welcomed Sister into the eternal home of His loving Heart.

Sister had been failing but we never expected her to go home to God yesterday. She was at liturgy in the morning, ate some of her noonday meal, and then suddenly took a turn for the worse. Our chaplain was in the house for confessions and he was called to anoint Sister. Within a very short time, our Sister Melchiades was with God.



Sister M. Melchiades - Elizabeth Hagedorn  
Born: June 17, 1908 in Borgholzhausen, Germany  
Professed: August 16, 1932  
Died: October 1, 2002 in Reading, PA

Sister Melchiades entered our congregation in February of 1931. Less than five months after her first profession, Sister was assigned to the United States. She worked as a homemaker at St. Michael's until being missioned to Dayton, Ohio. At that time our sisters cared for the physical needs of the Marianist Brothers who studied at the University of Dayton. For 19 years Sister Melchiades shared in this MSC ministry through her work in the kitchen. She then spent a year working at the hospital in Pottsville.

In 1954 Sister was transferred to Sacred Heart Hospital in Norristown where she faithfully carried out her duties until her retirement in 1991. Sister was very much loved and respected by her co-workers and the sisters in community. During the course of the 37 years she spent at Sacred Heart Hospital, Sister Melchiades brought the food from the main kitchen to the

sisters' dining room. It was a task which she performed with much love. When a sister asked her to fulfill a special need or request, she always did so most graciously.

Sister Melchiades was a joyful person. She loved the Heart of Jesus deeply and was able to see Christ in all those for whom and with whom she worked and lived. Her spirituality was truly that of a missionary directed toward the loving service of others.

Sister was also a woman of prayer. Her prayer and her life was filled with gratitude to God for all His graces and for any favor or service rendered to her. It was with great happiness that we celebrated Sister Melchiades' 70<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of Vows last May. Now she, who was a faithful spouse of Christ, can rejoice in His presence forever.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated for Sister Melchiades on Thursday, October 3, 2002 at 3:30 pm. She will then be laid to rest in our convent cemetery.

United in Jesus' love,

*Sister Marie Clark, M.S.C.*