

February 26, 1997

"Into your hands I commend my spirit;  
You will redeem me, O Lord, O faithful God."  
(Responsorial Psalm - Wednesday of the second week of Lent)

Dear Sisters,

In the quiet stillness of the night, our ever faithful God came to call our dear Sister Celestis to sing His praises forever.



Sister M. Celestis - Mary Anne Bubak  
Born: June 10, 1932 in Lansford, PA  
First Profession: August 19, 1952  
Died: February 26, 1997 in Reading, PA

Among our sisters who mourn Sister Celestis' sudden death are those who taught her as a child in Lansford and those who remember her fondly as their grade or high school teacher.

Shortly after her first profession, Sister Celestis began her years of active ministry as a primary school teacher in St. John's parish in Allentown. After completing her teacher training at the University of Dayton in 1957, Sister taught the little ones in the parish schools of Reading, Nazareth, Hilltown, and Lansford.

In the course of her teaching career, Sister was assigned to teach algebra at Nativity High School in Pottsville. After four years, she was appointed principal of our high school for aspirants here in Reading and later taught at Central Catholic High School in Allentown.

As was customary for our teachers, Sister Celestis spent her summers in study and graduated with a masters degree from Villanova in 1971. However, her teaching ministry was cut short by illness and in 1974 she came to St. Michael's where she worked as receptionist and librarian until she was forced to become a patient in our Health Care Center.

During Sister Celestis' long years as a multiple sclerosis patient, she kept an active interest in the congregation and world affairs. Sister was a quiet sufferer and a gentle presence as she moved

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throughout the house in her motorized wheelchair. She loved to engage in conversation and radiated a peaceful acceptance of God's will.

Just last week, Sister broke her leg and became bedridden. She bravely faced the prospect of a long, difficult Lent and only yesterday silently endured hours in the emergency room of the local hospital where she underwent tests for an intestinal obstruction. Sister was sent home around 9:00 p.m. and quietly slipped away during the night.

Sister Celestis had a great love of music which she generously shared with her students and in community. She has left us suddenly but was one of the few sisters in the province who had chosen hymns to be sung at her funeral liturgy.

We will celebrate the Mass of the Resurrection for Sister Celestis on Saturday, March 1, 1997, at 10:30 a.m. At this time, most of the sisters in the province will be gathered at St. Michael's for meetings and, together with our Sister, we will "Sing a New Song Unto the Lord". She will then be laid to rest in our convent cemetery.

Yours in the Heart of Jesus,

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