



MISSIONARY SISTERS
OF THE
SACRED HEART OF JESUS
PROVINCE CENTER

June 3, 2004

“If we have died with Him, we shall also live with Him.”
(2 Timothy – Liturgy of the Day)

Dear Sisters,

This morning our dear Sister Mary Clare entered into the joy of the heavenly kingdom with the sure and certain hope that she would live with her Lord and Savior for all eternity.



Sister Mary Clare - Margaret Baran
Born: June 12, 1918 in Bethlehem, PA
Professed: August 26, 1938
Died: June 3, 2004 in Reading, PA

With Sister Clare's entrance into the aspirancy at 14 years of age, she began her missionary training. She and all of our older Slovak sisters were truly immersed in a different culture from the day they entered the congregation. All of the instructions in religious life were given in German. At that time MSC sisters were teaching in her home parish in Bethlehem. The inspiration of these sisters must have been a strong and loving one that prompted her to take on the challenge of a second language and different customs at such an early age.

Sister Clare began a long and fruitful career as an educator in 1939 when she was missioned to Northampton and concluded with her work as a librarian in Lansford in 1992. In the course of these many years, Sister joyfully worked in fifteen different parish schools and in the Business Department of Little Flower High School in Philadelphia. She served as principal in Hilltown, Limeport, and Holy Guardian Angels in Reading.

For many years Sister's Saturdays and summers were filled with university classes. In 1984 she graciously accepted the opportunity to take a year's sabbatical which was a time of great grace and renewal for her. The

International Renewal Program that she participated in was also a very special period in her life's journey. Sister Clare was the type of person who easily enriched the lives of others by sharing the joys and graces of such experiences.

Sister Clare was always a very prayerful woman. She loved to entertain others with stories and jokes and was very much appreciated in the classroom and in community. Her joyful spirit remained with her through the years of retirement at St. Michael Convent and as a patient in Holy Family Center.

About two years ago Sister suffered a stroke. Her strong determination enabled her to recover the use of speech and the ability to walk. Sister Clare had a very special devotion to Mary and it was on Saturday, the feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, that Sister fell and fractured her hip. The day after surgery she developed a blood clot in her lung and fell into unconsciousness. Sister Clare died quietly with sisters in attendance at her bedside in St. Joseph Hospital.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated for Sister Mary Clare on Monday, June 7, 2004 at 3:30 p.m. She will then be laid to rest in our convent cemetery.

United in Jesus' love,

Sister Marie Clark, MSC