

September 3, 2002

Let everything you do or say be in the name of the Lord with thanksgiving to God.

(Communion antiphon - Monday, Week 22 of Ordinary Time)

Dear Sisters,

Yesterday morning at 11:00 a.m., Sister Gladys' long and fruitful life came to an unexpected and quiet end. Though we knew Sister was losing the battle with the pneumonia which had hospitalized her, we were shocked when the news came that she had already entered eternal glory. Sister Gladys surrendered her soul to her eternal bridegroom just moments before our sisters arrived at the hospital to keep watch with her.



Sister Mary Gladys - Mathilde Seidler  
Born: September 27, 1904 in Essen-Borbeck  
Professed: September 10, 1929  
Died: September 2, 2002 in Reading, PA

Sister Mary Gladys entered the congregation as a candidate in February of 1928. Less than three and a half years later, she arrived in the United States on the Steamer Milwaukee.

Sister was a dedicated housekeeper and spent her life in service of others. She was first missioned to the Josephinum Pontifical College in Columbus, Ohio. In 1942 she joined the community of Sacred Heart Hospital in Allentown where she stayed until 1972. During these thirty years, Sister created a home-like atmosphere for the many nursing students who trained at Sacred Heart. Being a good seamstress, she delighted in creating many costumes for the student nurses to use in their pageants and other events. Sister is remembered with great fondness by the sisters and staff as well as the women who passed through the school of nursing during that thirty-year period.

For the next twenty years, Sister Gladys served in the orphanage at Coopersburg, St. Joseph's Health Resort in Wedron, Good Samaritan Hospital in Pottsville, The Annunciation House of Prayer and Villa St. Elizabeth in Reading, St. Mary's in Athens, and, at the age of 82, began a six-year period of performing household duties in the Provinciate.

Sister Gladys' time at the House of Prayer was an especially graced period in her life. Here her contemplative spirit was nourished and she discovered the beauty of deep personal prayer. Her well-worn copy of St. John of the Cross bears testimony to her spiritual richness.

For the past nine years, Sister was in residence in our Health Care Unit. She was very independent and found a way to combine her creativity with a life of quiet prayer and wholesome interest in world happenings. Visitors often found Sister Gladys busy sewing. Over the years she made hundreds of angel and bride dolls which were sold for the mission in Mexico.

These past months have been a time of purification for Sister Gladys. She suffered much from back pain and slowly her health and spirit declined. We rejoice in the long and fruitful life which our gracious God has given to our Sister.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated for Sister Gladys on Thursday, September 5, 2002, at 4:00 pm. She will then be laid to rest in our convent cemetery.

United in Jesus' love,

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