

February 13, 1997

"Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart."
Joel 2:12
(from the readings for Ash Wednesday)

Dear Sisters,

After many years of suffering, our dear Sister Clarina was called to end this sacred time of Lent and to enter into the joy of the Resurrection. Late in the afternoon of Ash Wednesday, Sister Clarina returned to her God with all her heart.



Sister M. Clarina - Katharina Stettner
Born: October 14, 1902 in Mudersbach, Germany
First Profession: September 2, 1931
Died: February 12, 1997 in Reading, PA

Sister Clarina was missioned to the United States in December of 1933 and began many fruitful years of domestic service in the infirmary of St. Michael's in Reading. In succeeding years she worked with love, dedication, and resoluteness at a seminary in Beacon, NY, and at Sacred Heart Hospitals in Norristown and in Allentown where Sister spent 20 years in food service and also as sacristan.

In 1966 she was appointed superior in St. Joseph's Home in Wedron, IL where she also helped in the kitchen. When the sisters were withdrawn from Wedron in 1978, Sister Clarina returned to St. Michael's where she worked with quiet graciousness in the diet kitchen until 1985. Her failing health then forced her to retire to the Health Care Unit. Four years later she broke her hip and while learning to walk again suffered a stroke which kept her bedridden for the past eight years.

Sister Clarina is remembered as a most kind and caring person who was hard working, selfless, and always had an eye for different needs. Sister was a humble woman who lived each day, each moment, with prayerful fidelity.

It was her deep union with God which enabled Sister to be a day-by-day inspiration to her nurses and fellow sisters. She was always

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gracious, always grateful, and to the end, although paralyzed on one side and almost blind, made every effort to help herself as far as possible.

Sister had the pleasure of several visits from family members these past years. She looked forward to celebrating her 95th birthday with visitors from Germany next October.

Despite her joyful disposition, Sister Clarina worried about her ever-failing vision and feared the day when she would be in total blindness. We rejoice in the certainty that God has clothed Sister in His eternal light. In death as in life, she is for us a shining example of an MSC who lived the vision of our General Chapter *TO BE THE HEART OF CHRIST IN THE WORLD*.

We will celebrate the Mass of the Resurrection for Sister Clarina on Saturday, February 15, 1997, at 1:00 p.m. and then bring her to rest in our convent cemetery.

Yours in the Heart of Jesus,

Sister Marie Clark, MSC