

February 2, 1997

"Now Master, you can dismiss your servant in peace;
you have fulfilled your word."
(Words of the Gospel for the Feast of the Presentation)

Dear Sisters,

On this beautiful feast, surrounded in love by her sisters, our dear Sister Ephrema quietly returned to her God.



Sister M. Ephrema - Elizabeth Bussmann
Born: January 5, 1909 in Gelmer, Germany
First Profession: August 26, 1932
Died: February 2, 1997 in Reading, PA

Sister Ephrema was 16 when she entered the aspirancy in Hilstrup. Six years later, Sister arrived in New York and began her novitiate in August of 1931.

After her profession, Sister Ephrema taught for three years in the primary grades in Nazareth. The following three years found her in the business offices of Sacred Heart Hospital, Norristown and Good Samaritan Hospital, Pottsville. In 1939 Sister was transferred to Sacred Heart Hospital, Allentown where she generously served in the business office until suffering a stroke in 1982.

Those who knew and lived with Sister Ephrema remember her as a kind, gentle, and unassuming person who always had time to help anyone in need. Her patience and ability to relate well to doctors and patients under trying circumstances endeared her to many. Sister is fondly remembered by her co-workers for her ability to combine professionalism with a warm-hearted spirit. Sister Ephrema touched many lives with her goodness. The way that she lived her faith brought more than one convert to the Church.

The stroke, which cancelled Sister Ephrema's eagerly awaited trip to Germany, occurred while she was shoveling a path through the snow so that her sisters could easily walk from the hospital to the parish church. Instead of celebrating her Golden Jubilee at home,

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Sister came to our Holy Family Health Center where she ministered to our nurses and her fellow sisters through her patient, loving attitude.

Sister had a special love for Mary and during the long years of suffering which were increased through cancer, she often prayed the well-known phrase, "To Jesus through Mary". She added, however, a thought of her own--"with a smile". Although in recent years Sister was very confused, she was aware today of the Feast of the Presentation. In the hours preceding her death, Sister held her rosary, prayed aloud for God's mercy, and then peacefully returned her gentle spirit to God.

Sister Ephrema entered eternal life on this special day which has been set aside by our Holy Father and dedicated to consecrated life. The fidelity of her life challenges us to renewed commitment and we pray that, like her, we may joyfully bring Christ's light to the nations.

We will celebrate the Mass of the Resurrection for Sister Ephrema on Tuesday, February 4, 1997, at 3:30 p.m. and then bring her to rest in our convent cemetery.

Yours in the Heart of Jesus,

Sister Marie Clark, n.s.c.