

A. U. T. C. J. S.

St. Michael's Convent
Hyde Park, Reading, Pa.
March 11, 1963

Dear Sisters,

Last night we heard a more powerful "Memento mori" than on Ash-Wednesday because God, in His inscrutable ways, took our dear Sister M. Aphrodisia suddenly and quite unexpectedly from her active work to the eternal rest.

Sister M. Aphrodisia, Margareta Esch
Born: November 13, 1902 near Cologne, Germany
Entered our Congregation: February 1929
First Vows: September 1, 1930
Final Vows: August 15, 1935
Died: March 11, 1963 in Reading, U. S. A.

Sister M. Aphrodisia came to the United States in 1936 and worked in the kitchen in various houses of the Congregation; from 1957 - 1959, and again since 1960, she was in St. Michael's. From 1950 - 1956 she was superior in Mt. St. John, Dayton.

Sister was a simple, deeply religious, prayerful, and hard working soul who was liked by everybody. I doubt whether there is anybody in the Motherhouse or even in the Province whom she ever hurt in the least. Her companions at work found her always willing to discuss matters, to plan, to cooperate. She was cheerful but reserved and faithful to the last.

Sister was seriously ill a year ago because a foreign object lodged in her throat. At that time she received Extreme Unction and also the Blessing for the hour of death. She recovered from that accident, but was for years regularly under the doctor's care for high blood pressure. Yesterday she did her Sunday work as usual, was with the community in the evening recreation, mentioned that she expects Sister Roswitha, her Franciscan Sister, who is in this country, to visit her in spring.

At 1:00 A. M. this morning Sister M. Bernice, whose room is adjacent to that of Sister M. Aphrodisia, heard a gurgling sound, got up to investigate and noticed that Sister was dying or had died just then. The Superiors, the Sister Infirmarian, the priest, and the doctor were immediately summoned and Father administered Extreme Unction. The struggle had been short; a loving Savior took her beautiful soul home, but for us there is another vacancy. We humbly bow to God's will, pray for her soul and ask her to pray for us for her spirit of charity and for many worthy successors. (Sister recently mentioned to another Sister that her special intention for the year is to pray for many good vocations to replace the aging and ill household Sisters.)

The funeral will be on Wednesday at 9:00 A. M.

Sincerely in Corde Jesu,

Mother M. Elizabeth, M. S. C.