

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

St. Michael's Convent
Hyde Park, Reading, Pa.
March 21, 1962

Dear Sisters,

Today at 4:35 P. M. the angel of death visited our Community at St. Michael's and escorted Sister M. Benedicta, on her feastday, to her heavenly reward.

Sister M. Benedicta, Veronika Kohle
Born: February 2, 1887 at Hoerstel near the Rhine in
Westphalia, Germany
Entered our Congregation: October 21, 1908
Reception: May 13, 1909
First Vows: May 13, 1910
Final Vows: July 4, 1915
Died: March 21, 1962 in Reading, Pennsylvania

From 1913 to 1933 Sister taught successively in Lansford, Allentown, and Bethlehem. For the past twenty-nine years, Sister suffered from a heart ailment during which time she was stationed here at the Motherhouse. There were times when Sister was well enough to tutor individual Sisters in English or other high school subjects. But during the past few years she was not able to engage in any strenuous activity. Though almost completely bed-ridden she always showed a great interest in the activities of the community, particularly in the growth of the aspirancy and the novitiate. Visitors were always welcomed with a cheerful smile and dismissed with a promise of a memento in her prayers, for she prayed much.

During the past two years she seemed to be preparing in a very special way for her heavenly nuptials through a fervent practice of charity and sisterly love. She was very grateful for the good nursing care that was given her, saying that she didn't deserve such loving attention. Yet in spite of all medical care and rest she suffered several severe heart attacks during the past few months. But each time the graces of Extreme Unction seemed to revive her physical condition. On Sunday evening, March 11th, Sister received Extreme Unction for the last time. She was fully conscious and participated in all the prayers. From that day on there was a gradual decline in her physical vigor. On Tuesday night, March 20, she entered her Gethsemani and for several hours suffered a very excruciating agony. She was conscious, however, for she repeated short ejaculations and reverently kissed the crucifix which was pressed to her lips. Gradually she lapsed into a semi-conscious condition and on Wednesday afternoon her virginal soul took its flight to her Divine Spouse. She had received general absolution twice in the course of the day and was very well prepared to meet her merciful Judge.

Let us all join our prayers for the repose of the soul of our departed Sister.

The funeral Mass will be on Saturday, March 24, at 11:00.

Yours in Corde Jesu,

Sister M. Borgia, M. S. C.