

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

St. Michael's Convent
March 22, 1961

Dear Sisters,

This morning our dear Sister M. Christophora took her flight to heaven while Holy Mass was being offered for her. Dear St. Joseph took good care of her during the octave of his Feast.

Sister M. Christophora, nee Elizabeth Hemmis
Born on June 8, 1891, at Liesborn near Beckum, Germany
Entered our Congregation on November 15, 1911
First Profession on May 15, 1913
Final Profession on May 15, 1918
Came to U. S. A. on January 31, 1922
Died on March 22, 1961, at Wellsburg, West Virginia

Sister was active in St. Michael's Convent, St. Paul's Orphanage, in Columbus and in the Knights of St. George Home, Wellsburg, where she helped with the care of the aged since 1928. For the past several years Sister was suffering from high blood pressure and a heart condition. Moreover, her eyesight was extremely poor and thus Sister could be no longer of any real help. But she loved the Home and the old people and the Sisters kept her as a patient and were very kind to her. Sister was still up and around yesterday; at supper she felt that her right arm became numb, so that Sister had to eat with the left hand. She made little of it and thought a rub would cure all. When the Sisters wanted to help her to bed after supper, she thought she could first attend Benediction, but the Sisters did not permit it. Soon her right leg was affected; the doctor was called and he diagnosed it as a stroke. However, since Sister was fully conscious, he considered it a mild case. During the night her condition grew worse; at 11:15 P.M. she was anointed and she died this morning at 6:00 during the first Mass. The chaplain and four Sisters were at her bedside and recited the prayers for the dying.

Sister M. Christophora was a simple and pious religious. She loved her work and the old people and found in Wellsburg a true home for herself. Her outstanding characteristic was kindness; no wonder, that she reaped what she sowed. She certainly will have found a kind Judge and we trust that in Heaven she will in her kindness have a big heart for the needs of our Congregation and of each Sister.

Since on March 25 the rubrics do not permit a Requiem Mass, we shall have the funeral on Friday, March 24, at 9:00. Let us remember our dear departed Sister in our prayers. Her rather sudden death is for us all a serious warning to be always ready for the summons of the Bridegroom. We are called for sanctity; let us begin seriously today; there is no wisdom in putting it off until tomorrow. There may not be a tomorrow for us.

In Corde Jesu,

Mother M. Elizabeth, M. S. C.