

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

Hyde Park, Reading, Pa. 19605
July 25, 1965

Dear Sisters,

This Sunday morning at 1:30, God ended the life of prayer, work, and suffering of our good Sister M. Crescentia.

Sister M. Crescentia, née Elizabeth Ruthmaan
Born: March 21, 1883 at Hoetmar, Westphalia
Entered: October 21, 1903
First Vows: May 13, 1905
Died: July 25, 1965 at Reading, Pa.

In 1909 Sister M. Crescentia came to the United States and shared the hard pioneer work of the early United States community. She was always somewhat frail, but this did not prevent her from working faithfully in her assignments either in the old orphanage in Reading or as a housemother in various school missions. From 1930 - 1957 she lovingly, zealously, and devotedly took care of the teaching community in Palmerton and was the ideal of a "Martha" soul in the convent, always serving with joy and dedication. She took an active interest in the work of the Sisters, knew most of the children by name, and prayed much for them. Two years after her Golden Jubilee she had to give up her work and found a place of quiet and rest in our infirmary under the loving care of our Sisters. In spite of tremendous efforts, Sister remained an active member of the community and came for practically all exercises to the chapel and the dining room.

Sister celebrated her Diamond Jubilee with the community in early May. A few weeks later, she developed a fever which very gradually caused her death. She received the Sacrament of Anointing in June and could receive Holy Communion daily to the last day. Sister suffered much but without complaint and prayed with us for all the needs of the Church, the Congregation, the whole world and promised repeatedly to continue this work of love in heaven. Sister was a most grateful soul; though talking became difficult during the last weeks, she never failed to say her "Thank you" and these words were her last. Her spirit of gratitude was the flower of her constant charity. Her hobby was to write poems for festive occasions; I add her last one which she bequeathed to us.

Dear Jesus calls me home one day from suffering and from fear,
So many, many thanks I say to all my Sisters dear --
For all the love and kindly deeds, for patient help in all my needs,
My thankful prayer now will be for each and every one:
God give His grace abundantly and fruitful years to come,
With Mary's help to do His will by prayer, work, and suffering still
Until the angel takes us home to heaven's bliss and heaven's throne,
Where in the love of Christ's dear Heart in endless joy we all take part.

We sincerely hope that Sister already enjoys heaven's bliss but, nevertheless, recommend her to your fervent prayers.

The funeral will be on Wednesday, July 28, at 9:00 A. M.

Sincerely yours in Corde Jesu,

Mother M. Elizabeth, M. S. C.