

Dear Sisters,

This afternoon at 4:10, the Sacred Heart must have rejoiced that He could say to His well-prepared spouse, Sister M. Hermine, His final, "Veni Sponsa Christi".

Sister M. Hermine, Elizabeth Guethe

Born April 26, 1888 at Greven, Germany

Entered October 22, 1908 at Hilstrup

Reception May 13, 1909

First Profession May 13, 1910

Final Profession July 4, 1915

Died June 18, 1958 at Sacred Heart Hospital, Allentown, Pennsylvania

Sister M. Hermine came to this country on October 18, 1911 and continued her studies in preparation for the teaching profession. From 1912 to 1927 Sister taught successively in the parish schools at Nazareth, Haycock, Palmerton, and St. Cyril and Methodius, Reading. In the latter place she was superior. Sister M. Hermine must be considered as one of the pioneer workers in this country, and she often has entertained us (as she could do so well) by her amusing anecdotes about early days that had their difficulties but also their charm.

Ill health forced Sister M. Hermine to discontinue her work in school. In 1928 she went as patient and helper to St. Joseph's Health Resort, Wedron, Illinois and shared again pioneer work in that then recently founded home. In 1932 she returned to St. Michael's where she worked for 22 years with care and zeal in the park and greenhouse. In 1954 she was sent to Wellsburg for a much-needed rest, but she soon joined there, too, the ranks of the workers. In the spring of 1958 she became ill, was first a patient in St. Joseph's Hospital, Wheeling, West Virginia, but was transferred from there on May 1 to our own Sacred Heart Hospital in Allentown, Pa.

Our Lord could say of our dear departed Sister, "Behold, an Israelite indeed in whom there is no guile". Sister was honest and sincere with God, with herself, and with others; sincere and faithful in her religious life, in teaching, and in manual work after illness had forced her to give up the teaching profession for which she was so well prepared; faithful while accepting the cross of long physical illness and many sleepless nights. In sincerity she "fought the good fight" and, if a choleric temperament occasionally allowed a quick remark, Sister's sincere humility caused her to be even quicker in making up for it in private or public.

Sister knew that a merciless cancer meant certain death, but she accepted it beautifully with quiet resignation. She used the two or three months of her illness to get her "house" in perfect order. She was very conscious and told me at my last visit a week before her death: "Every week I go to Confession. Days before already I calmly think of all that was not good in the past and then I include it. You see, Mother, when I get up there to the Sacred Heart, I want to be able to look straight into His eyes"; and again, "I hope He comes soon; I am not afraid to go; I know I walk straight into the arms of God."

The funeral will be at 8:30 on Saturday, June 21, the first day of our retreat. It will be the first sermon for the retreatants and for all of us: "Memento mori".

Sincerely in Corde Jesu,

Mother M. Elizabeth, M.S.C.

P.S. Newspaper clippings informed us that our Sister M. Chantal died on Pentecost in Elberfeld. Letter must have been lost. Please say customary prayers.

To verify: Classes begin June 30. Students are expected June 29, not 28; room will not permit.