

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

St. Michael's Convent
Bernharts
Reading, Pa.

March 8, 1950

Dear Sisters:

This evening our dear Sister M. Hildegardis departed this life for her true home in Heaven. Peacefully she fell asleep in the Lord while the priest and the Sisters prayed at her bedside.

Sister M. Hildegardis was in her 70th year; her strength was all spent in the service of the sick and aged. She worked the last 23 years of her life in the Home of the Knights of St. George, Wellsburg, W. Va. How many old people did she prepare for a holy death in these years! She herself kept at her post until she was literally worn out and completely spent. A few weeks before Christmas she was forced to give up her activity. All endeavors of the doctors and Sisters to make her well again failed. In January she received Extreme Unction after which she somewhat rallied new strength, at least enough to warrant a transfer by ambulance to St. Michael's. After about two weeks her strength failed visibly. Strengthened by Holy Viaticum and Extreme Unction she awaited death quietly and prayerfully. On Wednesday she became unconscious. Rev. Father stayed with her for a while praying with the Sisters. Fifteen minutes before her death he gave her once more General Absolution. So we may hope that her soul was well prepared to meet a merciful Judge in the loving Heart of our Savior whom she had served in our community and in the care of the sick and aged for 48 years.

Sister M. Hildegardis, Elizabeth Ostkamp, was one of the oldest members of our community. Born at Oelde, in August 1880, she entered at Hiltrup in 1902; made her vows in due time and 1910 was sent to America. Here she prepared for nursing in the Sacred Heart Hospital, Allentown, Pa., where she remained until 1927. The rest of her life was spent in Wellsburg. Sister M. Hildegardis was an efficient and devoted nurse, giving her best to the sick and infirm and helpless old people, always solicitous for their spiritual welfare and a good preparation for a happy death. She had great confidence in St. Joseph as her helper in this care. It seems that good St. Joseph came for her in the month and on the day dedicated to him. Let us, therefore, ask him especially in the coming Novena to obtain for our dear Sister M. Hildegardis the joys and bliss of Heaven.

Faithfully yours in Corde Jesu,

Mother M. Hildegardis