

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

Reading, Pa.  
January 2, 1964

Dear Sisters,

Just a few weeks ago we sent the alarming news of the sudden death of dear Sister M. Theophana; today it is followed by a similar notice. Our good Sister M. Maxentia went quietly to heaven during this past night. Her death was sudden but not unexpected; her weeks in the infirmary were a time of serious preparation for the coming of her Savior.

Sister M. Maxentia, née Kunigunde Kreussel  
Born: June 7, 1897 at Mitteldorf, Bavaria  
Entered our Congregation: August 21, 1922  
Final Profession: May 6, 1929  
Died: January 2, 1964

Sister M. Maxentia arrived in the United States as Postulant on ~~September 22,~~ <sup>March 11, 1923</sup> 1922. It was an early and great sacrifice because Sister was sincerely devoted to her land and people. God gave her the joy of a homevisit in 1961.

Sister M. Maxentia was a teacher who had a big heart for her children and a deep interest in her profession. She taught school for 37 years; 32 of these she spent in her beloved Coplay where she left a deep imprint on the children and people. Her apostolic spirit followed her charges after they had long left her class and the school. During the summer, Sister very often volunteered to give catechetical instructions, even when her health was already failing.

Sister suffered from a serious heart condition and was forced to stay in the Motherhouse in fall 1962. But even as an invalid she tried to make herself useful by written work, translating letters from the missions, and giving private classes. Sister knew that death could come suddenly and her superiors know how anxious she was to be ready at any moment. Yesterday, New Year's, she spoke several times about it, wondering whether she would live to see 1965. But she did not allow the thought of death to frighten her or make her unduly depressed although, on account of her somewhat melancholy temperament, this could have easily happened. She kept herself busy and was with the Community for practically all exercises. By cheering up others, she cheered up herself. During the recent Feastdays, she even came to the evening recreations, but last night she could not. Before retiring she visited all the sick for a brief "Good-night; it was her last farewell. This morning, Sister M. Leocadia, noticing that everything was too quiet in her neighbor's room, found her dead. She lay there most peacefully; apparently the Angel of Death has been very kind and knowing that she had gone through worries and agonies so often during life, now bore her soul aloft without further struggle. Father gave her conditional absolution and Extreme Unction though she had received the Last Rites upon her request about two months ago.

Dear Sisters, since March 1963 four Sisters of our province died; three of them were found dead in bed. The Lord certainly reminds us to prepare, to make every night a sincere act of contrition and to be mindful of the words we so often repeat: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass us."

The funeral will be on Saturday, January 4, at 10:00 A. M. I ask you to remember our dear Sister in your fervent prayers.

Sincerely yours in Corde Jesu,

Mother M. Elizabeth, M. S. C.