

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

St. Michael Convent
Lyle Park, Reading, Pa.
May 4, 1964

Dear Sisters,

This morning at 7:40 our dear Sister Maxima peacefully returned her soul to her Creator, supported by the prayers of the priest and the Sisters. Her blessed death was the echo of a holy life, lived simply and joyously for God alone.

Sister M. Maxima, née Maria Liebert
Born: April 9, 1898 at Gelsenkirchen, Germany
Entered our Congregation: October 17, 1919
First Profession: May 16, 1921
Final Profession: May 15, 1926
Came to U. S. A.: September 23, 1936
Died in Reading, Pa.: May 4, 1964

Sister worked mainly in the kitchen in St. John's, Allentown, Philadelphia, Dayton, and Wedron.

In early February 1963, Sister had to submit to an operation which, however, could not cure her serious ailment. The doctor gave her half a year at most but to the surprise of all, Sister rallied somewhat and even worked for a time in our diet kitchen with her usual kindness, devotedness, and skill. Around Christmas her condition grew worse and she had to be confined to bed. Sister knew that God would give her just a few weeks or months to prepare for death, and she utilized every moment. As in her life she had prayed, worked, and suffered, so now in her illness she prayed almost constantly, suffered without any complaint, and worked thus for the Congregation and souls.

Though Sister had received the Last Rites some time ago, Father once again anointed her on Saturday night, May 2, and gave her on Sunday morning Holy Communion as Viaticum. It was her last. A day and night of suffering but of constant prayer followed. It was admirable with what fervor and effort she answered to the various ejaculations; as the attending nurse during our Mass this morning prayed the Litany of the Sacred Heart with her, she would answer to each invocation with a brief, "Yes," instead of "Have mercy on us." One of her favorite prayers was "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen." There was in her a deep sense of resignation to God's holy will, confidence in the good Father in heaven, gratitude to the Congregation and each Sister, and the firm resolve to be our intercessor in heaven.

We began our May retreat last night; Sister Maxima has preached for all an eloquent sermon on how to live in order to die "in Christ Jesus." I recommend her soul to the fervent prayers of the Sisters.

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

Sincerely yours in Corde Jesu,

Mother M. Elizabeth, M. S. C.