

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

Reading, Pa.  
November 1, 1965

Dear Sisters,

After a long and painful illness, our dear Sister M. Mechtild joined this morning at 10:45 the noble company of the Saints in heaven.

Sister M. Mechtild, nee Elizabeth Polewsky  
Born January 11, 1907 at Osnabrueck, Germany  
Entered our Congregation on October 7, 1926  
Pronounced her Final Vows on August 25, 1933  
Died November 1, 1965 in Reading, Pa.

Sister came to the U.S. in 1931 and prepared for the teaching profession. She taught in several of our parochial schools and for eight years in Central Catholic High, Allentown. Sister loved her work of teaching as also the additional task of being the organist in parish churches. Song and music harmonized well with her sense of humor and cheerful disposition through which she tried to uplift others. There was nothing affected or diplomatic in her relationship to God nor others. She loved the Sacred Heart, she loved the Mass, and placed herself and her intentions on the paten and then she knew that Christ would change all into Himself. He would take care of the past, present, and future; why then worry?

Sister suffered for more than a year from a very slowly progressing illness. The doctors thought that she would be in heaven by Christmas 1964, but she held on for ten further months. From the very onset of her illness she accepted death with resignation. Last year she wrote to me, "I am looking forward to death as a child does to Christmas." But the Lord gave her a long year of dying daily, and it was not entirely without struggle. When during the second last night she seemed somewhat uneasy; and when I, not knowing whether it was caused by physical pain or by mental agony, asked whether she would pardon me and all the Sisters if ever we hurt her, she firmly but with extreme effort replied, "Yes; there is nothing to forgive." When I asked at another time whether anything worried her, her answer was, "No, nothing at all."

Sister was a loyal child of the Congregation. In one of her letters she wrote, "I thank for all the prayers. God's will is mine. I rejoice in having spent my life as an M.S.C." Recently, when a Sister visited her in our infirmary, she said slowly but distinctly, "Don't worry, no matter what happens. Accept all humiliations. Only do God's will; that's all that matters. People want esteem and cause heartaches because of petty jealousies. All this counts as nothing when you stand at the open grave. Then only two things are important and these two will meet some day - God and you. I want our Congregation to be a holy congregation." Her soul was well fortified by the Sacrament of the Sick, daily Holy Communion except today, and many prayers of the priest and the Sisters. She died very peacefully and we hope that her soul has found eternal peace.

The funeral will be on Thursday at 10:00 A. M. Let us remember the soul of our dear Sister in fervent prayers.

Sincerely yours in Corde Jesu,

Mother M. Elizabeth, M.S.C.