

Dear Sisters,

Yesterday, on the Feast of the Annunciation and the 60th anniversary of our foundation, we renewed our M.S.C. ideal and resolved anew to live and to die as better religious and missionaries. The Sacred Heart Himself confirmed our good resolutions through a very powerful sermon, the sudden death of our dear Sister M. Pamphilia who went to her eternal reward about 12:05 A.M. today.

Sister M. Pamphilia, Anna Busch  
Date of Birth: April 2, 1897 at Heiden, Westphalia  
Entrance Date: July 15, 1920  
Reception: Feb. 1, 1921  
First Profession: Feb. 2, 1922  
Final Profession: Feb. 2, 1927  
Death: March 26, 1960

Sister M. Pamphilia came from a good Catholic family with eight children. She lost her mother early and helped her father in the house and on the farm until she entered in 1920. As Senior Novice Sister came in November 1922 to the U.S.A. and has worked as teacher in Philadelphia, Coplay, and Northampton.

Sister was teaching now the fifth grade with 61 children. She really loved her apostolic activity and always volunteered to give on Saturdays and during the summer Catechetical instructions to the children of St. Michael's Mission Church who do not have a Catholic school. She was ready to go there this very morning. Besides this, Sister took care of the sacristy in the parish church. Her good taste, love for neatness, and ability to sew well, made her an expert at this work. She also did many a favor for the Sisters through sewing.

Sister M. Pamphilia's health had suffered years ago to some extent from serious operations and yet, in spite of being somewhat nervous, she seemed to hold on tenaciously. She saw the doctor a week before her death for her heart condition and he found her fair. Sister taught on Friday, March 25, the whole day, did her routine sacristy work after school, also filled the ciborium, and with the other Sisters made her weekly Confession. Complaining of being very tired, she asked Sister M. Angelis, her superior, for permission to take an early rest in the night. When Sister M. Angelis noticed that she did not look well, she asked her to retire even earlier, but Sister M. Pamphilia did not think that such an exception was needed. When at 7:30 P.M. the other Sisters went to Church to attend Lenten services, Sister M. Pamphilia said her prayers in the Convent chapel and retired.

At 11:45 she knocked at Sister M. Angelis' door to tell her how bad she felt, that she suffered from shortness of breath. Sister M. Angelis called Sister M. Michael who came immediately with Sister M. Erentraud. While Sister M. Angelis summoned the doctor, the two other Sisters assisted Sister M. Pamphilia physically and spiritually. Sister M. Pamphilia remarked: "This is serious; if this keeps up, I'm going to pass out, but I'd like to be anointed." After Sister M. Angelis had called for the doctor, she also called for the priest. One of the Sisters asked Sister M. Pamphilia, "What can I do for you?" She replied, "Nothing; just pray for me. Thank you for everything. Everything is all right. Just as God wants it." The Sisters said some prayers with her. The last ejaculation which the dying Sister herself whispered was, "My Jesus, mercy." Shortly after she gasped and died. A few minutes later the priest arrived to anoint her conditionally. By that time the whole community who was astir went to chapel to say the Rosary for the departed.

The funeral will be on Tuesday, March 29. We shall remember Sister, and we are confident that she will continue in heaven her apostolic zeal in behalf of the Congregation and of souls.

Sincerely yours in Corde Jesu,  
Mother M. Elizabeth, M.S.C.