

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

ST. MICHAEL'S CONVENT
HYDE PARK
READING, PA. 19605

APRIL 16, 1969

"I have chosen you from the world and have appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain. Alleluja." (John 15:16)

Dear Sisters,

This morning at 9:45 our dear Sister M. Rita returned her soul into the hands of Him who 54 years ago called her from the world to work in His vineyard among the young. May she now hear from Him who chose her, the words: "Well done, good and faithful servant".

Sister M. Rita - Helen Shebej
Born December 23, 1897 in Richmond, Virginia
Entered our Congregation September 5, 1914
Made first vows November 21, 1915
Died in Allentown, Pa. April 16, 1969

Sister M. Rita became ill about six weeks ago with the flu which developed into bronchio-pneumonia. While Sister was hospitalized, the diagnosis of Hodgkin's disease, a malignant condition which affects the lymph nodes, was also made. Sister must have had this disease for quite some time. Nevertheless, she continued with her teaching apostolate at Central Catholic High School in Allentown, Pennsylvania until her recent illness.

Those who had the privilege of being and working with Sister M. Rita, know her as a humble and unassuming Sister. Hers was a prayerful soul, characterized by deep spirituality. She was a zealous and faithful religious, loyal to her community, sincere and straightforward, and helpful wherever there was a need. She loved her vocation and esteemed her vows.

Sister's teaching apostolate lasted 52 years, twenty-one of which were devoted to teaching our high school students and Sisters, in college extension courses. Sister M. Rita was an excellent teacher. She loved her students, was fair, just and thorough in her teaching, and treated each student as an individual, unique and different from all others. She had the tremendous ability to make abstract things concrete and exemplified the old adage: "If the student has not learned, the teacher has not taught."

The Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, April 19, 1969 at 10:00 a.m. in the Motherhouse Chapel, and immediately after we will accompany our departed Sister to her last resting place in our convent cemetery.

Sincerely yours in the Sacred Heart,

Mother M. Bridget, M.S.C.