

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

Reading, Pa.
September 21, 1963

Dear Sisters,

Today, at 4:45 P.M., the Sacred Heart took pity on our good Sister M. Stanislaus and relieved her from her long sufferings which had lasted for years.

Sister M. Stanislaus, Maria Bergerfurth
Born: November 3, 1883
Entered our Congregation: October 15, 1906
First Profession: May 13, 1908
Final Profession: May 15, 1913
Died: September 21, 1963 at Reading, U.S.A.

Sister M. Stanislaus was the daughter of a forester and was born at Bachem, Diocese of Trier, Germany. The good Catholic parents raised nine children; only one sister died about a year ago; all the other brothers and sisters are still living in spite of their advanced age.

Sister M. Stanislaus came to this country on June 20, 1909, just ten months after the first Sisters had arrived to lay the foundation of our American Province. She prepared for the teaching profession and was active in many of our schools as teacher and later, as superior.

Due to the effects of arteriosclerosis, Sister's memory slowly began to fail and made work in school impossible. Since 1948 she was in the Provincial Motherhouse at Reading and helped with domestic duties until she could not even do that. However, she tried to follow the daily schedule and was with the community for all exercises and recreations. Though suffering under her mental handicap, she enjoyed the company and the pleasantries of the Sisters. For a time she grew restless and nervous, but during the last years she became physically and mentally more and more feeble, was very quiet and unresponsive, and was limited to her room and her bed. Three times she received the last Sacraments during the past two years, the last time two days before her quiet and peaceful death. For quite some time she was denied the privilege of receiving Holy Communion.

Sister was a very faithful religious, prayerful, exact in the observance of all duties, grateful and satisfied as long as she was physically and mentally able. It pleased the Lord to lay a heavy cross upon her shoulders -- an almost complete failure of mental activity during the last years of her life. But now we rejoice with her that she can know and understand and love and finds the reward of a long and fervent religious life. In heaven she will pray for our Congregation and especially for her devoted nurses. Let our prayers assist her that she may soon find eternal rest.

The funeral will be on Tuesday, September 24, at 9:00 A. M. It is the Feast of Our Lady of Ransom. May Mary ransom on that day the soul of our dear Sister M. Stanislaus and of all our departed Sisters still detained in purgatory.

Sincerely yours in Corde Jesu,

Mother M. Elizabeth, M. S. C.