

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

St. Michael Convent  
Hyde Park, Reading, Pa.  
March 30, 1964

Dear Sisters,

On Easter Sunday we could pray for our dear Sister M. Theodosia, "Stay with us, Lord, for it is getting toward evening, and the day is far spent." This morning at 3:05, accompanied by our prayers, Sister's soul quietly took its flight to heaven.

Sister M. Theodosia, née Elizabeth van Issen  
Born: December 2, 1890 at Nieukerk, Germany  
Entered our Congregation: May 19, 1913  
Died: March 30, 1964

Sister M. Theodosia came to this country in 1921 and was engaged in domestic duties in several of our houses. Since 1953 she had been in the Infirmary of St. Michael with a slowly progressive paralysis. In her active life and as a patient she proved to be a genuine Missionary Sister of the Sacred Heart who was faithful in all her duties and patient during her many years of suffering which began long before Sister's transfer to our infirmary. Yet there was never a complaint on her lips, never impatience, irritation, unkindness. The kindly smile, so characteristic of her, seems to transfigure her face even now in the coffin. Only God knows how much she has prayed and suffered for Holy Mother Church, our Congregation, and souls on her bed, a veritable cross, to which she seemed almost nailed. If she would at times request, "I'd like to get up," it was the will to get better and work; it had never the implication of a complaint. On Good Friday evening, she said with effort to Sister M. Agana, the attending nurse, "Pray the Stations." She always responded eagerly to the prayers which the nursing and visiting Sisters would recite with her, and our sick Sisters performed a beautiful act of mercy in this regard. She had the good fortune to receive the Sacrament of the Sick repeatedly during her lingering illness, and to receive Holy Communion to the very last full day of her life, Easter Sunday. About 11:00 A. M. on that day, Sister lost consciousness, and on Easter Monday, at 3:05 A. M., she breathed her last while her superiors and nursing Sisters assisted her soul by their prayers. We hope that the peace which the Risen Savior promised on Easter is hers already; nevertheless, we recommend her soul to the fervent prayers of all. On December 8, 1964, Sister can celebrate her Golden Jubilee in heaven.

The funeral will be on Thursday, April 2, at 9:00 A. M.

Sincerely yours in Corde Jesu,

Mother M. Elizabeth, M. S. C.

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

St. Michael Convent  
Lyme 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.