

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

St. Michael Convent
Hyde Park, Reading, Pa.
September 5, 1966

Dear Sisters,

On the first Saturday of the month, at 5:45 P. M., Our Blessed Lady took our dear Sister M. Virginia home to her eternal reward. Death did not come unexpectedly.

Sister M. Virginia.....Pearl Bakos
Born - Keresztes, Hungary..January 6, 1899
Entered the Congregation...January 18, 1921
Made her First Profession November 30, 1922
Made her Final Profession... August 25, 1927
Died.....September 3, 1966
in Good Samaritan Hospital, Pottsville, Pa.

Sister M. Virginia's health started to fail in the beginning of the year. Being very active by nature she kept going until May 18th, when she was admitted to the Good Samaritan Hospital, where a tentative diagnosis of cancer of the lung was made, which was confirmed several weeks later. Sister M. Virginia was still able to supervise the laundry on a part time basis for some time. She loved her work, which she had performed with such precision for the past twenty five years here in Pottsville. In the beginning of July her condition grew worse and she had to be confined to her sickroom. When she learned of the seriousness of her condition she resigned herself to God's Holy Will, and never uttered a word of complaint, although she suffered at times excruciating pains.

Sister M. Virginia was a simple soul, who loved Our Lady dearly. She was always found fingering her beads and whispering ejaculations to our dear Lady. On Sunday, August 27th she received Extreme Unction with great fervor and prepared for the coming of the Lord. Until three days before her death she was still able to receive Our Dear Lord in Holy Communion. At her request the Community prayed three times a day before meals her favorite ejaculation: "Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us, now and at the hour of our death, Amen." (For the past two weeks.)

Sister M. Virginia will be gratefully remembered by her laundry help, who loved her for her goodness to them, for being so interested in their problems, for being so fair and considerate. Sister M. Virginia taught them in her own simple way, to turn out only the best kind of work, to be diligent and thrifty. She never failed to encourage them to receive the sacraments frequently and instilled into her people a genuine love for the missions. Many a pagan baby was ransomed with the pennies which these working people saved from day to day. On the leper colony of Anelaua Sister M. Virginia will be gratefully remembered for the many bundles of newspaper which she mailed out so that the poorest of the poor, the Lepers, could roll their coarse cigarettes. Her people will never forget the lessons of kindness and generosity learned in that laundry.

Sister M. Virginia is the second member of the Pottsville Community whom death has claimed this year. Only six months ago, on the First Friday of March, the Community knelt at the deathbed of our dear Sister M. Odilia. Let us hope and pray that we have two powerful intercessors at the throne of God. On Wednesday morning we will have a Requiem for Sister after which interment will follow in our Convent cemetery.

Sincerely yours in Corde Jesu,

Sister M. Borgia, M. S. C.