

ST. MICHAEL CONVENT
HYDE PARK
READING, PA.: 19605

January 22, 1977

"Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones".

(Ps. 116 - Today's Evening Prayer)

Dear Sisters,

Once again Our Lord came suddenly and unexpectedly; this time, to take his faithful one, our dear Sister M. Apollinara, to the joy of her eternal home.

Sister M. Apollinara, M.S.C. - Maria Wehner
Born August 8, 1909 in Frauenroth, Bavaria, Germany
First Profession August 26, 1934
Died January 22, 1977 in Reading, Pa.

Sister M. Apollinara was surely "precious in the eyes of the Lord", even in life. In spite of much suffering and mental anguish, her life of love and union with Jesus and Mary was obvious to all who knew her.

Sister came to America in 1930 because she had a brother and a sister living in New York. She entered the U.S. Novitiate in 1933. In 1938 Sister Apollinara was missioned to Puerto Rico, where she served the people of that country faithfully until the mission was discontinued in 1943.

The next 25 years of Sister's life were spent sharing in a special way in the sufferings of Christ through mental illness. Since her return from the hospital in 1969, Sister Apollinara has been part of the Motherhouse community. In her quiet, unassuming way she carried out the duties assigned to her in the Diet Kitchen. She served Christ and others with simplicity and joy, arising very early each morning to see that the coffee and cereal were ready for the Sisters in the Infirmary. Then she could be found long before Mass time, in company with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

Recently Sister M. Apollinara told me that as a young Sister she made up a short act of self-consecration to Our Lord. Each word began with a letter of her name, and she repeated it often every day to unite herself, and to give herself ever more completely to Him. She also had a unique love to Our Lady and could be seen saying her rosary every day, often out of doors, because of her great love for nature.

Today Sister did her chores as usual. She came to supper this evening, but told the Sisters that her appetite was poor and she was not feeling too well. Shortly after supper she went to the Diet Kitchen to prepare the breakfast trays for the Infirmary. It was here that Our Lord called her Home. She died quietly and peacefully as she lived.

Sister Apollinara is the sister of our Sister M. Sara, M.S.C., who is at St. Mary's Hospital, Athens, Georgia.

The funeral Mass for Sister M. Apollinara will be on Tuesday, January 25, 1977 at 3:30 p.m. Let us continue to remember our dear departed Sister, especially at the Eucharistic Sacrifice.

In the Heart of Jesus,
Sister M. Thomasita, M.S.C.