

St. Michael Convent
Hyde Park
Reading, Pa. 19605

June 26, 1978

"Those who share in My sufferings will be with Me in My glory."

Dear Sisters,

This afternoon at 3:10 p.m. Our Lord released our dear Sister M. Gottfriedis from her sufferings and called her to Himself.

Sister M. Gottfriedis -- Clara Hagen
Born: August 25, 1897 in Soest, West Germany
First Profession: February 3, 1923
Died: June 25, 1978
St. Joseph's Hospital, Reading, Pa.

Sister M. Gottfriedis began her ministry in the teaching apostolate, and then for thirty-six years she was in charge of St. Clara's Home in Allentown until it closed in 1974. Here Sister gave herself untiringly to the elderly, never counting the cost to herself. The next four years Sister spent in the motherhouse community with our senior Sisters. She was always busy helping others and spent much of her time with our Sisters in the infirmary. Sister also wrote letters for those who were not able to do so.

Sister's following of Christ can be characterized in the words, "She emptied herself." All who were acquainted with Sister knew her as a very giving person, becoming all things to all men. She willingly and joyfully gave her time, her talents, her very self. Sister was also known for her determination to conquer obstacles, for her willingness to serve, and for her kindness. You could always count on a smile from Sister to brighten your day.

Sister M. Gottfriedis was especially devoted to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. In her apostolic ministry she actively spread this devotion and in her own personal life, Mary was her powerful intercessor.

During most of her religious life, Sister had a severe skin condition which caused constant irritation. This chronic ailment she accepted without complaint. Three weeks before her death Sister became completely bed-ridden with a number of complications and was hospitalized. She was diagnosed as having a malignant lymphoma and was receiving radiation and chemo-therapy. During her two-week stay in the hospital she suffered intensely. All who visited her recognized that she shared in the sufferings of Christ in a very real way. Sister was slowly regaining her strength, but last evening she took a turn for the worse. Today, in the company of two of our Sisters, she very peacefully entered into the joy of the Lord.

The Mass of the Resurrection will be offered on Wednesday, June 28, at 4:00 p.m., after which she will be buried in our convent cemetery.

Let us remain united with our dear Sister in our prayers, especially the Liturgy.

In the Heart of Jesus,

Sister M. Philip, M.S.C.