

MAY THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS BE LOVED EVERYWHERE!

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

July 12, 1975

"Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones."
(Psalm 116)

Dear Sisters,

Today, the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Our Lady, came to relieve Sister M. Hedwigis of a life of suffering. Our Sisters who knew her well all say that she was really a victim soul, very dear to the Heart of Jesus whom she loved so tenderly.

Sister M. Hedwigis, M.S.C. - Cecilia Hoenscher
Born May 8, 1885 in Altgrotthkau, Selesia, Germany
First Profession December 8, 1913
Died July 12, 1975 in Reading, Pennsylvania

From the very beginning, Sister's years in the apostolate were marked by the Cross. Even though she suffered from severe headaches, she always gave herself unstintingly to her assignment. She never spared herself when it came to serving the needs of her Sisters, the sick in the Hospital at Allentown, the Brothers at Dayton, or the guests of Wedron. At the latter place the beginnings were very difficult and often there was not enough food so that Sister M. Hedwigis had to stretch the little she had to reach as many as she could. She was an excellent cook and baker, teaching new recruits the art. She was a very pleasant community member, trying to bring joy to others at meals and during recreation.

Eventually Sister had to be committed to an institution where she was for many years. In 1965, she was well enough to be released and then she came to the Motherhouse where she has remained in our infirmary until her death.

Sister was a woman of great faith. Her greeting each morning was, "God has given me a new day." She loved to pray, showing a very special devotion to the Sacred Heart and to Our Lady. Whenever she met someone, she would say, "May Our Lady of the Sacred Heart with the little Jesus bless you." Anyone who visited her, was given a promise of prayers. The rosary was constantly in her hands. She prayed especially for priests. When she no longer could go to Mass, she would ask a Sister to take greetings from her to Jesus in the tabernacle. She always had a great longing for Holy Communion. Before she entered the convent, she was received into the Sodality of the Sacred Heart. One of the requirements of the members was to recite daily the Litany of the Sacred Heart. When Sister was very weak, the nurse said, "I think you are too tired now to pray the litany." However, Sister insisted, answering, "Have mercy on us."

Sister had been anointed about ten times. Finally, after about a week of gradual decline, God took her to Himself.

Let us continue to remember our dear departed Sister especially at the Eucharistic Sacrifice. The funeral Mass will be on Tuesday, July 15th at 3:30 P.M.

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