

St. Michael Convent
Hyde Park
Reading, PA 19605
June 4, 1979

"Lord, teach us your plan of love that we might know it
and carry it out today."

(Morning Prayers)

Dear Sisters,

Today God's plan for Sister Mara was that she should share in His love
for all eternity.

Sister M. Mara (Gumara), M.S.C. - Rosina Kohl
Born: March 22, 1896 in Rumpelmühle, Bavaria, Germany
First Profession: September 9, 1928
Died: June 4, 1979 in Reading, Pennsylvania

Sister Mara came to the United States in 1932. Over the years she served
in the kitchen and laundry of various houses including Dayton, Worthington,
Pottsville, St. Michael's Reading, Limeport, Coopersburg, Nazareth and St.
John's, Allentown.

Sister loved to cook and to bake and took great interest in her work.
She had her special "secrets" as all good cooks do. She was also very fond of
nature and took special delight in watching things grow.

Throughout her life, Sister Mara had a number of health problems and
several serious operations but none of these ever daunted her enthusiasm and
determination to work for the Lord. In 1975 she came to our motherhouse to
retire. Prayer always had a very important place in her life. In her days of
retirement she prayed constantly. The energy and enthusiasm she displayed in
the active apostolate, she now channeled into her ministry of prayer.

Over the past few years Sister had been gradually failing and walking was
becoming increasingly hard for her. In spite of her difficulties, she was
always cheerful and deeply grateful for any kindness shown to her. "Thank you
and God bless you" was her heartfelt response.

In recent weeks Sister Mara remarked that she was not feeling well anymore.
This morning she lapsed into unconsciousness and was admitted to the intensive
care unit of St. Joseph's Hospital in Reading. In the evening two Sisters
visited her, but since her prognosis was poor, they left intending to return
within a half-hour with a Sister prepared to stay for the night. Sister Mara
died peacefully two or three minutes before they returned, going home to the
Father as she so often desired.

The Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated Thursday evening at
7:00 p. m. The burial will be in the convent cemetery on Friday morning.

In the Sacred Heart,

Sister M. Philip, M.S.C.