

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

September 11, 1978

"Wenn einst ich werde scheiden, dann scheide nicht von mir;  
In Deines Herzens Mitte gib auch ein Plätzchen mir".

"When once I must depart, do not depart from me;  
In the center of your Heart preserve a place for me".

Dear Sisters,

This little prayer, one of Sister Pelagia's favorites, was recited by her daily, including yesterday, when she did very peacefully and quietly depart from us.

Sister M. Pelagia, M.S.C. - Elizabeth Hagenhoff  
Born: November 16, 1878 at Beckum, Germany  
First Profession: May 13, 1908  
Died: September 10, 1978 in Reading, Pa.

Sister Pelagia was trained as a teacher and taught school in Germany for several years before entering our Congregation. She came to America in 1909, one year after her first profession.

Her teaching career in this country began in McAdoo, Schuylkill County, only a few months after her arrival. She continued teaching from the elementary through the university level, until her retirement in 1962.

Sister Pelagia was truly dedicated to the apostolate of education. Her students learned as much from her person as they did from her classes, because of her integrity, charity, and constant spirit of joy. She was teacher and principal in many of our schools through the years, and then Associate Professor at the University of Dayton until her retirement in 1962.

Sister Pelagia often spoke of her former pupils, whom she prayed for faithfully. Among those who were especially dear to her were the priests and sisters, including Bishop Martin Lohmuller, Father William Becker and Father John J. Dennis, OSFS of Philadelphia; also Father John Wiesler of Coplay and Father Francis Revak of Limeport.

This past summer Sister celebrated her 70th Anniversary of her Profession. In November she would have been 100 years old. She enjoyed every minute of her Anniversary celebration and was looking forward to her birthday. However, in the spirit of the words she so often spoke, "whatever the Lord wants is what I want" she joyfully answered the prayers of the Sacrament of the Sick, and went to take the little place which, we are sure, the Lord prepared for her "in the center of His Heart".

The Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated for Sister on Wednesday, September 13th, at 7:00 P.M. The homily will be given by Bishop Lohmuller. On Thursday morning Sister will be laid to rest in our convent cemetery.

In the Heart of Jesus,

Sister M. Thomasita, M.S.C.