

A.U.T.C.J.S.

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

July 4, 1972

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His faithful ones." (Tues. Prime)

Dear Sisters,

When we prayed Prime in our Chapel this morning each Sister must have applied these words to our dear Sister M. William (Willibalda) whom God called Home suddenly at 3:00 a.m. today. Her face in death shone with the beauty and radiance of an innocent, sleeping child.

Sister M. William - Elizabeth Aschhoff
Born Nov. 29, 1893 in Muenster i.W.

First Profession May 15, 1914
Died July 4, 1972

A beautiful, serene, peaceful life has ended with a beautiful peaceful death. Sister M. William was well prepared to meet her Lord. God has heard her prayer to die in the way she wished to go. Often she stated that she is ready to die at any time. God found her watching and praying.

Since 1961 Sister M. William has worked lovingly and cheerfully in our Motherhouse laundry. The novices who spent some time helping her each week said of her, "She was an inspiration to us, a model M.S.C. She was so good and kind and always looked so happy." Because the shortage of water and the sewage problems due to the flood prevented work in our laundry last week, Sister asked to spend a few days of vacation in Coopersburg. She came back on Saturday, happy and eager to continue her work. In her quiet manner she planned the work for Monday and Tuesday. Much was cleared away yesterday. Other hands have lovingly volunteered to complete her work today. After recreation last night she made her usual visit to Chapel. Around 3:00 a.m. she awakened her neighbor complaining of pain, but immediately went back to bed. Sister M. Ania followed her at once, trying to be of assistance, but in less than five minutes a severe heart attack sent Sister M. William's holy soul back to God.

Sister M. William was a real mother to the orphans at St. Paul's Orphanage in Reading, Pa., her first assignment in the USA, in 1916. Since 1925 most of her time was spent on missions where our Sisters dedicated their lives to caring for the needs of priests or young men preparing for the priesthood. Our MSC Fathers as well as the Marianists will always hold fond memories of a great woman of God.

For many years Sister M. William was superior of several of our convents. The Sisters who lived with her then and those who know her now describe her as one of the kindest persons they ever met; never has any unkind word, any complaint, or any critical remark passed her lips. Simple, quiet, unassuming, she always had time for others. She always chose the hardest tasks for herself and tried to be helpful everywhere and in every way she could. She was a woman of deep faith, a woman of prayer, always concerned about the needs of our Congregation. She will now be our powerful intercessor with God during our General Chapter.

Although we believe that Sister is already happy with God in Heaven, let us continue to pray for her. The Mass of the Resurrection will be on Thursday, July 7, 1972 at 4:00 p.m., after which she will be buried in the Motherhouse cemetery.

In the love of Christ,
Sister M. Dacia, M.S.C.