

Province Center  
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December 3, 1992

"The Lord will dawn on you in radiant beauty."

(Responsory from this morning's Office)

Dear Sisters,

Around 9:15 this morning, Sister Alfreda knew the Lord's radiant beauty when He came for His grateful, joyful friend. Sister had been hospitalized for about two weeks with pneumonia from which she was unable to rally. She was very aware that death was pending and expressed no fears about meeting God, even though toward the end she did show some anxiety as her physical condition worsened.

Sister M. Alfreda - Johanna Roehring  
Born: February 13, 1899 in Wessendorf, Germany  
First Profession: February 3, 1923  
Died: December 3, 1992 in Reading, Pa.

Sister Alfreda came to the United States in 1932, nine years after her first profession. She was immediately assigned to work in the kitchen in Columbus, Ohio in the seminary. She continued this type of ministry at St. John's, Dayton; in St. Joseph's Retreat House in Malvern; and in Sacred Heart Home in Coopersburg. She served as superior in several places and in Coopersburg was also administrator of the Home. The move to St. Michael's in 1972 was a very painful one for Alfreda but her readiness to do God's will helped her through that difficult transition. In 1988 she joined the sisters of Holy Family Center.

As superior she was loved very much. She knew how to bring out the best in each sister. They respected and loved her because she worked hard with them. No matter what kind of work needed to be done she would help, whether it was cleaning, laundry, cooking, or serving in the dining room. She also got along with the laity who worked in the various institutions where she served. She was outgoing, sincere, open, and fair with them.

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When she was administrator of Sacred Heart Home in Coopersburg, she knew how to combine her role as superior with her administrative tasks. As she expanded the facilities at the Home, she knew how to win over Msgr. Fink and his brother Paul. Even though she had no formal education above grade school and no training even in the English language, she was able to work with the various social service agencies. Anything that would benefit the children of the Home she was willing to tackle. She was even an excellent fundraiser, knowing just how to approach people of influence, whether state officials, business people, or presidents of clubs.

She loved not only the people who worked with her but above all the children of the Home, who affectionately called her "Mother Alfreda". Nothing was too much for her to give them good training. They were taught to help in the dining room and kitchen, as well as with cleaning. They were trained to become good citizens. She was noted for holding a monthly Holy Hour with the children. Alfreda would punctuate the praying and singing with prayers from her heart. One person recently remarked how they loved that.

While in Holy Family Center, she became aware of how she was no longer able to remember. This was a great suffering to her but she accepted it as part of God's will. She always expressed how grateful she was for all that God and the community had done for her. Because she was such a grateful person, radiating the positive and always seeking to do God's will, even in her days of illness, it was easy to be with Sister. She was truly outstanding in her gratitude, her joy, and her love for people.

On Monday, December 7, 1992, at 3:30 P.M., we shall celebrate the Mass of the Resurrection for Sister. She will then be laid to rest in our convent cemetery. We are grateful for the 60 years of joy-filled presence that Alfreda shared with us.

One in the Heart of Jesus,

*Sister Teresita, M.S.C.*

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