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October 29, 1996

"O send forth your light and your truth;
let these be my guide.

Let them bring me to your holy mountain
to the place where you dwell."

(Morning Prayer - Tuesday of Week 2)

Dear Sisters,

This morning, moments before the community gathered for morning prayer, God who is faithful love and everlasting truth came to end many years of suffering and to bring our dear Sister Amandine to her eternal dwelling place.

Sister M. Amandine - Paula Becker Born: March 29, 1907 in Neuenkirchen, Germany First Profession: February 3, 1935 Died: October 29, 1996 in Reading, PA

Sister Amandine arrived in the United States just six months after her first profession. The following year she began her ministry to God's people and the congregation as a homemaker and cook. Her first assignment was at a large retreat house in Malvern, PA. Later, she labored with love at Sacred Heart Hospital, Norristown and in Shelby, Ohio. However, most of her years were spent in the service of her sisters at St. Michael's.

Sister suffered for most of her life from rheumatoid arthritis and it was this crippling disease which forced her to retire in 1976. She was a member of St. Michael's community until moving to Holy Family Center in 1987. Within the past months, she was diagnosed with a severe narrowing of the main blood vessel which necessitated the constant use of oxygen and finally led to her death.

A loving concern for others characterized Sister Amandine's life. This trait had its roots in her very caring family, among siblings who learned to nurture one another after the early death of both

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parents. Sister's niece and nephews, along with their families, continued to be a source of love and support to Sister in her golden years.

In community we remember Sister Amandine as one who served with kindness and resoluteness among her pots and pans. For many of us, Sister Amandine was an integral part of our early formative years when we worked under her direction in the Motherhouse kitchen and witnessed her unselfish devotion to duty.

Sister's deep religious spirit and her trust in God readily shone through her frequent and gracious smiles. These qualities will remain with us in the years to come when we ponder the inscription she chose for her tombstone: "Praise the Lord with me and give Him thanks."

We will celebrate the Mass of the Resurrection for Sister Amandine on Thursday, October 31, 1996, at 2:00 p.m. and then bring her to rest in our convent cemetery. We are grateful for Sister's many years of vowed life and know that she is still among us as an intercessor who will bring God's blessing as we MSC strive to be the Heart of God in the world.

Yours in the Heart of Jesus,

Suster Marie Clark, m. s.c.