

December 30, 1996

"Come, let us worship Christ, the Son of God,  
who was obedient to Mary and Joseph."  
(Invitatory..Morning Prayer for  
the Feast of the Holy Family)

Dear Sisters,

While the community of St. Michael's was gathered for morning liturgy on the Feast of the Holy Family, Mary and Joseph came to lead our dear Sister Ania to her eternal home.



Sister M. Ania - Josepha Sprehe  
Born: August 21, 1900 in Ondrup, Germany  
First Profession: August 26, 1924  
Died: December 29, 1996 in Reading, PA

Sister Ania came to the United States as a postulant in August of 1923. At the time of her departure from Germany, Sister Ania's younger sister Maria, now Sister M. Berarda, MSC, was only eleven years of age.

The 66 years which Sister Ania spent in active ministry were rich and varied. She began her professional life as an elementary school teacher at St. John's in Allentown. In 1934, Sister's second career took her into the hospital where she served as nurse at Sacred Heart Hospitals in Allentown, Chester, and Norristown and as general purchaser at Good Samaritan in Pottsville and superior and administrator of St. Mary's in Athens, Georgia. In addition to her nursing duties, Sister served two six-year terms as superior at Villa St. Elizabeth, a home for the elderly in Reading, and one term in Mt. Trexler, a health care facility in Limeport, PA.

In 1966 she began the period of her hidden, but not less active, life. For 24 years Sister was the official mission packer for the Province. In this capacity, her zeal spread to every corner of the globe. She had a large number of personal contacts with many missionaries and was an invaluable link between individuals in need and generous benefactors. Sister personally sent hundreds of thousands of rosaries and miraculous medals around the world.

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We remember Sister Ania as an intelligent and dedicated person. Most especially, we remember her as a deeply spiritual woman, on fire with zeal for Christ and the Church. She lived and breathed a deep awareness and desire to bring the world to Christ.

It was with reluctance that Sister retired to Holy Family Center in 1990. From her sickbed she tried as long as possible to stay in touch with her world-wide mission. In recent years, Sister became weaker and weaker and often unaware of those around her. However, each evening one of the sisters read and prayed with her.

As the last moments of Sister Ania's life slipped away this past Sunday morning, one of our younger sisters was beginning the long journey to her new mission in Papua New Guinea. I believe Sister Ania's missionary spirit lives on among us as we gratefully recall her loving fidelity and apostolic zeal and are assured of her continued intercession for us.

We will celebrate the Mass of the Resurrection for Sister Ania on Thursday, January 2, 1997, at 3:30 p.m., and then bring her to rest in our convent cemetery.

Yours in the Heart of Jesus,

*Sister Marie Clark, m.s.c.*