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Provincialate  
Seminary Avenue  
Hyde Park, Reading, Pa. 19605  
Phone: (215) 929-5079  
August 30, 1985

"...your faith, which is more precious than the passing splendor of fire-tried gold, may by its genuiness lead to praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ appears."  
(Morning Prayers: I Peter 1:7-8)

Dear Sisters,

Last evening at 10:20 p.m., Sr. M. Anita completed her earthly journey of giving praise and honor to Jesus, when He came to take her home to the fullness of His glory.

Sr. M. Anita, MSC  
Stephania Benek  
Born: August 18, 1908  
First Profession: August 26, 1928  
Died: August 29, 1985

Sr. Anita was born in Lansford, Pa. She entered our congregation as an aspirant in 1923. From 1929 until 1977, she ministered in the field of education in the following places: Our Lady of Hungary, Northampton; St. Cyril & Methodius, Reading; Sacred Heart, Palmerton; Holy Guardian Angels, Reading; St. John, Allentown; St. Peter, Coplay; St. John, Haycock, until she retired to the motherhouse in 1977 because of poor health.

Sr. Anita lived her religious life in a quiet and joyful manner, fruit of her surrender to God. Despite an earlier weakening of eyesight which grew progressively worse, Sister continued with strong determination to do whatever she could to be helpful in community. Last spring, she was planning to take a trip to Fatima with her sister Anna. As the date of her departure drew near, she learned of her serious carcinoma condition. In her characteristic spirit of faith, she accepted this, as well as everything else, in union with Mary who gave her loving Fiat. Throughout her illness, Sister's witness of deep faith and total surrender was truly "more precious than the passing splendor of fire-tried gold".

Several times during the past month, we thought her Beloved was coming for her. However, not until last evening, very peacefully in the presence of her fellow Sisters, did Jesus come to take her to the fullness of His glory to sing His praises forever!

The Mass of Resurrection will be celebrated on Monday, Sept. 2nd, at 10:00 a.m., and internment will follow immediately. Let us remain united with our dear Sister as she lives her new life in the Lord.!

*Sr. Agnes Marie, M.S.C.*

MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE MOST SACRED HEART