

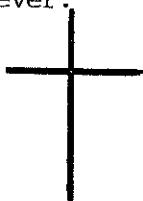
February 24, 1989

"I rejoice in the Lord and exalt in my saving God."

(Morning Prayers)

Dear Sisters,

In the early hours of the morning, the Lord called our dear Sister Aquinata to rejoice in him forever.



Sister M. Aquinata - Paula Bauernfeind
Born: July 24, 1898
First Profession: May 15, 1918
Entered into eternal life: February 24, 1989

Sister Aquinata came to the United States in 1920. Her first fifteen years in ministry were spent in various parish elementary schools; namely, Lansford, Philadelphia, Nazareth and Haycock. From 1936 to 1957 Sister Aquinata was the directress of novices. In 1957 until her retirement in 1980, she returned to teaching in Haycock, Lansford, Holy Guardian Angels in Reading, and Northampton.

Sister Aquinata had a great sense of compassion for others. She was a person who really knew how to listen and made time to be available for others. If she asked you to do something difficult you knew that she had already done it in some way herself. (She would not ask others to do something that she herself was not willing to do). She was very fair to all and gave real encouragement to others. She was always interested in hearing about our sisters and their families and their activities. She was especially interested in the areas of vocations and formation and knew the anniversaries of entrance, professions of our sisters, even of our newest novices and temporary professed sisters. Sister Aquinata wanted to be updated with the latest books and authors. She could readily discuss spiritual topics at depth and often shared insights from her personal reflection. God had blessed her with a very keen mind and she was very alert and clear to the end. Sister Aquinata was a woman of prayer and a very spiritual person. She was especially conscious of the indwelling Presence of the Blessed Trinity. She was devoted to centering prayer even though she may not have called it such. She wanted to live for her 70th Jubilee and she celebrated it with much joy last year (1988).

Over the last weeks, Sister Aquinata had been getting progressively weaker. She had a weak heart in addition to the other ailments that go with advancing age. She had much pain toward the end and was heard to say, "I never knew how much Jesus suffered on the cross, but now I know." Those who were close to her feel that she had a mystical experience of suffering with Jesus.

The nurse who was taking care of her spoke to her about 1:15 a.m. and returned about an hour later to find that Sister Aquinata's long-awaited wish had been fulfilled. She was now united in a new way with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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Her former students, novices, and so many others have been greatly influenced by Sister Aquinata. May she continue to pray for all of us as we remain united with her by our prayers and our love.

The Mass of the Resurrection will be offered in our convent chapel on Monday, February 27, at 3:30 p.m. The burial in our convent cemetery will follow.

In the love of our Lord,

Sister Marylune