

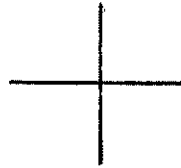
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Provincialate
Seminary Avenue
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Phone: (215) 929-5944

"My heart is ready, O God, my heart is ready."

Dear Sisters,

Today at 9:45 a.m., I am sure that our blessed Lord saw the readiness of Sister Armella's heart as He called her to Himself this morning at 9:45 a.m.



Sister M. Armella, MSC -- Maria Marth
Born: May 20, 1896
First Profession: November 22, 1918
Entered into Eternal Life: August 9, 1990

Sister Armella was born in Hungary and came to the United States when she was 18 years old. She grew up in Northampton. Two of her nieces are members of our American Province, Sister Mary Michele and Sister Theresa Marth.

Sister Armella was active in the domestic service area of many of our local convents since 1919: St. Paul's Orphanage in Reading, Sacred Heart Hospital in Allentown; Columbus, Ohio; Nazareth, Coaldale, and St. Cyril's in Reading. Most of us remember her from her many years in the garden in St. Michael's from 1928 - 1961 and again from 1967 - 1974. She was a hard worker who combined faith and prayer with her work for the Congregation and for our Sisters. Her strong character mellowed beautifully during her retirement years and illness so that she was known for her serenity and pleasant, contagious smile.

Sister Armella retired to Villa St. Elizabeth in 1977, and even then one would usually find her outside with a rake in her hands. In 1986 Sister came to Holy Family Center as a patient.

In the last four years she grew progressively weaker. For the last two years she spoke very little, but she listened attentively and communicated with her eyes and her beautiful smile.

Sister Armella lived close to the earth and close to the Lord. She understood the importance of preparing soil, planting, seeds dying and bringing forth new life. In her early years the fruits of her labor were the vegetables, fruits and plants. As time went on the fruits of her labor were the inspiration she brought to us by her untiring service, her fidelity to God and her love of the Congregation.

MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE MOST SACRED HEART

So many of us have shared our work and our life with Sister Armella, especially the novices who worked with her in the garden and in the canning room. It was fitting, therefore, that she should die during our province week when virtually all the Sisters from the entire province were gathered for seven days of sharing, reflecting, listening and rejoicing together. This morning at 9:15 a.m., in the company of several Sisters, including Sister Michele, Sister Armella entered into God's eternal presence.

We thank our good God for giving us Sister Armella for such a long time and we thank her for the influence she had on our lives.

On Saturday at 10:00 a.m., we shall celebrate the Mass of the Resurrection for Sister. Afterwards she will be buried in the convent cemetery. Our love, happy memories and prayers are sure to accompany her.

In the Love of our Lord,

Sister Maryhane