

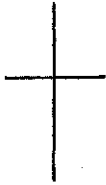
December 12, 1993

"My soul rejoices in my God."

(Words from the Responsorial Psalm for the 3rd Sunday of Advent)

Dear Sisters,

This morning at 3:30 A.M. Sister Assunta could, with Mary, "rejoice in God, and her being could proclaim the greatness of the Lord." What a beautiful day on which to die - the day which the church calls "Rejoice Sunday" and the day on which we honor Mary as Our Lady of Guadalupe.



Sister M. Assunta - Klara Buller
Born: February 22, 1900 in Glandorf, Germany
First Profession: February 2, 1922
Died: December 12, 1993 in Reading, Pa.

After several cancer surgeries, Sister Assunta was diagnosed in August with a recurrence of this illness. Then, for more than three months she suffered, longing for God's coming and yet called by God to wait. Advent took on special meaning for her. She used this time of waiting to thank God for his goodness to her and to pray for us, her community, for her friends, and for the needs of Sacred Heart Hospital and its staff. Sister Assunta did not know what it meant to be idle, so that even as she lay dying she was a missionary through prayer and suffering.

Sister Friedeburg prayed with her in the evenings, reading her favorite passages in the Gospel of St. John and also the psalms. Sister said that at times Sister Assunta's face became transfigured. We know that daily she was in chapel from four to five in the morning to make a Holy Hour of prayer. She did this until she was no longer able because of her sickness.

Sister Assunta lived a full 93 years of life and 71 years as a Missionary Sister of the Sacred Heart. She came to the United States in November of 1922 and in the same year was assigned to the business office in Sacred Heart Hospital, Allentown. She worked there for 17 years and was then assigned to Sacred Heart Hospital, Norristown. However, this was for only one year; she was then sent to St. Mary's Hospital in Athens, Georgia where her stay was less than a year.

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Following this assignment, she began her long love affair of 50 years with Sacred Heart Hospital, Norristown, from which she retired in January of 1990. Most of us recall that she worked in the business office but she did much more than that. In the early years of her ministry there she was jack-of-all-trades. She volunteered as an aide during the night; she would set up trays in the dietary and carry them to patients; she would be seen hanging up baby clothes on the wash line; she worked in x-ray; she painted walls.

After her retirement from active ministry, Sister Assunta came to St. Michael's where she offered to help in the sewing room, making new habits and mending others. She was always ready to give anything a try. When she was diagnosed with terminal cancer, she became a member of Holy Family Center where she was lovingly cared for by our nursing staff.

Sister Assunta found happiness in her great love of Jesus and in her desire to do what pleased God. She was a woman of deep faith which showed itself in the way she spoke and related to others. We rejoice with Sister Assunta that God called her to Himself. We look to her intercession to help us be missionaries of God's love.

The Mass of Resurrection will be celebrated at St. Michael's Convent on Tuesday, December 14, 1993, at 3:00 P.M. She will then be laid to rest in the convent cemetery.

United in the Heart of Jesus,

Sister Teresita, M.S.C.

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