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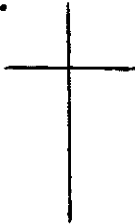
Provinciate
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Phone: (215) 929-5944

February 18, 1991

"Answer us, Lord, with your loving kindness, turn to us in your great mercy." (Entrance Antiphon)

Dear Sisters,

This afternoon at 1:30 p.m. on the first Saturday of Lent, God did answer the prayer of Sister Avila Marie and our prayer as well. Sister heard the words of her bridegroom, "Come, my beloved, abide in Me."



Sister Avila Marie, MSC - Ethel Stangl
Born: October 31, 1919
First Profession: August 26, 1939
Died: February 16, 1991, in Reading, Pa.

Sister Avila Marie was diagnosed just eight months ago as having cancer of the brain. Surgery removed much of the tumor. Initially she responded well to radiation and chemotherapy. However, the cancer continued to spread so all treatment was discontinued. Sister accepted the diagnosis with loving resignation and abandonment to the Lord's will, so indicative of her close relationship with God.

Sister Avila's ministry was quite varied, having been a teacher, a principal, and a director of religious education in several parishes. Sister was a very good teacher, preparing children for civic and religious responsibilities. She not only imparted knowledge but taught values as well.

Her last assignment before her cancer diagnosis was attending to the needs of the sick and elderly in St. Michael's, Lansford. In this ministry, sister visited the sick and elderly in their homes, in hospitals, and in nursing homes. She also had the joy of bringing the Eucharist to them. If necessary, she would shop with them or even do it for them. She spent much time listening, encouraging, and praying with widows and widowers. She also helped the elderly fill out papers, consulted agencies for them, trying in every way to respond to their needs.

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Sister had a gift to see the needs of others and respond to them in her gentle, loving way, even before being asked. She was willing to share what she had, whether it was things or her gifts of heart and mind. The love people had for her was shown in the many, many cards which she received during her illness, assuring her of their love and prayers. Even as recently as Valentine Day, sister was remembered with cards.

Sister offered her many months of suffering for the blessing of God upon the ministry of evangelization. She was a very prayerful, contemplative person, faithful to daily centering prayer. The fruits of her prayer were so evident in her peaceful attitude, her quiet and pleasant ways throughout her illness. Sister will now know the fruit of her favorite breath prayer - "Abide in Me."

On Wednesday at 11:00 a.m., we shall celebrate the Mass of the Resurrection for sister. Then sister will be buried in our convent cemetery. We are grateful to Sister Avila Marie for the many years she was gift to us.

United in the Heart of God,

Sister Teresita, M. L. C.