

Province Center
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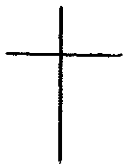
June 24, 1991

"Praise the Lord, for his loving kindness will never fail."
(Sunday Morning Office)

Dear Sisters,

Sometime early Sunday morning, Sister Mary Berchmans experienced the fullness of the Lord's loving kindness as she was welcomed by Him into eternal life.

After the Sunday morning Mass in chapel, Sister Bernice went to see if Sister Berchmans was not feeling well since sister had not been in her usual place in chapel. What a shock sister received to find Sister Berchmans lying on her bedroom floor, evidently having died sometime earlier. Even though death came suddenly for Sister Mary Berchmans, none of us doubt that she was ready to surrender her life to the Lord.



Sister Mary Berchmans, MSC - Maria Kramer
Born: June 21, 1905
First Profession: September 9, 1928
Died: June 23, 1991 in Reading

Sister Mary Berchmans came to the United States in 1930 and began her long ministry of teaching in 1933. After teaching for 42 years sister then studied to become a school librarian. She remained in this work for 12 years. During the time she served as librarian, she also coordinated the CCD Program for the parish and continued doing this even after retiring from library work.

In 1989 sister retired to St. Michael's where she still continued her life of service in many little ways. She lovingly helped with feeding our sisters who were unable to help themselves. She sewed and repaired the clothing of the sisters of Holy Family Center. In any request given her, she was always kind and gracious.

Sister was an excellent teacher, having taught all grades with the exception of 6th. Her former pupils expressed over the years how they loved her. She was always patient with the slow learner. She also was well liked as a teacher of religion and prepared the children with great care to receive the sacraments.

Her love for community was also very evident. More than what Sister Mary Berchmans did, however, was her loving, generous presence to all of us. Sister could truly be called a humble, unassuming person, so ready to help in any way and at any time. She did so many acts of kindness for others, without any desire to get praise or attention. She had an eye for need and responded. To one of our young sisters, she said, "Be a good MSC and be fully a part of the community. When something is going on, be a part of it. We are all sisters and need to be here for each other."

This past week, she said to Sister Debora, "I am praying for the grace to be conscious till the end of my life so I can always pray." She received that wish. This morning her Sunday missal was open to the day's readings.

We shall celebrate the Mass of the Resurrection for sister on Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. Sister will then be buried in our convent cemetery. In Sister Mary Berchmans we find an MSC fashioned after the Heart of Jesus. We can look to her for inspiration.

United in the Heart of God,

Sister Teresita, MSC