

October 24, 1992

"I rejoiced when I heard them say:  
let me go up to the house of the Lord."

(Responsorial Psalm - Saturday Liturgy)

Dear Sisters,

Sister Bergunde had not been feeling well for a long time. This evening, she complained of abdominal pain but did not wish to go to the emergency room. When Sister Britta went to her room to bless her with holy water, Sister Bergunde was sitting on the edge of her bed and said, "I can hardly make it anymore. I wish I could die. I am 'kaputt'." God listened to her wish. Around 9:30 P.M., a nurse found her in her room. God had come for her. She is now in the House of the Lord.

✠ Sister M. Bergunde, MSC - Franziska Dueren  
Born: January 5, 1902 in Coerrenzig, Kr. Erkelenz, Germany  
First Profession: September 10, 1929  
Died: October 24, 1992 in Reading, Pa.

Sister Bergunde had an MSC Sister who served in Namibia, Sister Adelma. Sister Adelma had to return to Germany because of poor health where she remained until she died.

Sister served as a homemaker from 1932 to 1973 when she finally retired to St. Michael's. She served in this capacity in Philadelphia, Northampton, Cincinnati, Columbus, Allentown, Coplay, Lansford, Nazareth, Coopersburg, Haycock, and Palmerton. Sister was very generous in using her talents as homemaker to care for the needs of the sisters. She was always reliable and others knew they could count on her to carry out any assigned duty to the best of her ability and to do it joyfully.

I believe all of us have enjoyed listening to Sister Bergunde. She was the oldest of nine children and was left to care for them because of her mother's early death. She related how she looked after her mother as well as her brothers and sisters. She was not always adept at expressing herself since English was not her forte. She gave us many a laugh when relating something to us. As one doctor said when he wanted to identify Sister, "She is the sister who speaks English in many languages."

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Her ministry during her years of retirement was visiting our sick sisters, especially those who were not able to leave their rooms. She did this on a daily basis. Many of us have witnessed how Sister Bergunde would also choose one sister on whom she lavished all her love and attention, such as Sisters Marita and Methodia.

These past months Sister spent much time in prayer. Since she was unable to read anymore because of poor eyesight, she was often in chapel sitting there, like Mary, at the feet of Jesus.

We will miss Sister Bergunde, having spent almost 20 years between St. Michael's and Holy Family. But we rejoice with her that she has been granted her wish to be with God.

On Tuesday, October 27, at 3:30 P.M., we shall celebrate the Mass of the Resurrection for Sister. She will be laid to rest in our convent cemetery. We are grateful to Sister Bergunde for the gift that she has been to us during her 62 years as a member of the United States Province.

In the love of the Sacred Heart,

*Sister Teresita, M.S.C.*

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