

January 25, 1994

"I live by faith in the Son of God,  
who loved me and sacrificed Himself for me."  
(Communion Verse for the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul)

Dear Sisters,

No longer does Sister Borromea live by faith alone; God, our loving Father, has turned faith into vision. Sister often spoke about coming to Holy Family Center to die but God delayed that coming for a long time. Now her great homesickness for heaven has finally been satisfied. This morning around 12:20 A.M., Sister peacefully surrendered her life into God's hands.



Sister M. Borromea - Rose Lajcak  
Born: October 16, 1899 in Lansford, PA  
First Profession: November 27, 1920  
Died: January 25, 1994 in Reading, PA

Sister Borromea is a Lansford vocation, joining our aspirancy in 1914. She began her active ministry as a teacher. She taught grades one through eight over a period of twenty years in St. Mary's McAdoo; SS. Cyril and Methodius, Bethlehem; SS. Cyril and Methodius, Reading; St. John's, Allentown; Sacred Heart, Palmerton. She then had a respite from teaching. She served as a housemother in Sacred Heart Home, Coopersburg, helped in the men's department at Villa St. Elizabeth, and worked in the house and garden at the sanatorium in Limeport. Then Sister went back to teaching for three more years in St. John's, Allentown and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Slatington. After this, she began twenty years of office work at the sanatorium in Limeport and later at St. Joseph's Health Resort in Wedron, Illinois. Sister finally retired after 57 years of active ministry to Villa St. Elizabeth. She came to Holy Family Center in 1985. She had surgery for cancer which later recurred. However, she declined to undergo a second surgery.

Sister was noted for her great love for flowers and plants and her love for reading. She always showed an interest in what was happening in the world and in the Church. She loved to receive visitors.

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Sister Borromea had a great love for Our Lady, making the DeMontfort consecration in the early 40's. She lived according to this spirituality -- through Mary, with Mary, in Mary, and for Mary. Her mornings were spent in prayer, using our "old" daily prayerbook, praying the Stations of the Cross from her small booklet received as a gift from the Generalate, and praying over a Gospel passage. She was a prayerful, although private, person.

Sister Borromea, along with several other sisters, left her imprint on the people of McAdoo. When Msgr. Forish gave a retreat day to our sisters in Holy Family, he told them how his father spoke about his reverence, respect, and gratitude to the MSC Sisters who taught in the school in McAdoo. Msgr. Forish said that the faith of his father, which was enriched by the presence of our sisters, was passed on to him.

The Mass of Resurrection will be celebrated for Sister on Friday, January 28, 1994, at 3:30 P.M. After that, she will be laid to rest in our convent cemetery.

United in the Heart of Jesus,

*Sister Teresita, MSC*