

January 17, 1994

"When will I come to the end of my pilgrimage and
enter the presence of God?"

(Antiphon for Morning Prayer)

Dear Sisters,

This morning, around 6:15 a.m., Sister M. Clothildis came to the end of her earthly pilgrimage and entered the presence of God. A noticeable change came over Sister on Thursday evening and because of this was anointed the following morning. It seems her heart simply grew weaker and weaker until it finally wore out. These past few days were, to all appearances, a very peaceful time for Sister Clothildis. There seemed to be no struggle to let go of this life.



Sister M. Clothildis - Hedwig Padberg
Born: July 19, 1904
First Profession: August 26, 1924
Died: January 17, 1994 in Reading, PA

Sister Clothildis came to the United States as a novice, professing her first vows a year later. Her first ministry was at the motherhouse, teaching music to the aspirants and also studying. She taught grades one, two, and three for over fifty years at our parish schools in Our Lady of Hungary, Northampton; St. Michael's, Lansford; St. Henry's, Philadelphia; St. Peter's, Coplay; Holy Family, Nazareth; St. John's, Haycock; SS. Cyril and Methodius, Coaldale; Sacred Heart Home, Coopersburg. During these years of teaching, she was always the parish organist and also gave piano lessons to many students. Music was her love and her gift. It was during her last assignment at Nazareth that she stepped down from teaching because of declining health and took on the ministry of visiting the sick of the parish.

Sister retired to Holy Family Center, our healthcare facility, in December of 1983. Because she found more and more difficulty in walking, it became necessary for her to use a cane, then a walker, and finally a wheel chair. As her physical condition deteriorated, she accepted everything with a great serenity. She was a simple person - simple in her expectations of others and also joyful, kind, and not demanding. She never showed herself agitated but always satisfied with the care given her. All of these attitudes and behaviors grew out of her closeness to God. As long as she was able, she would go to the infirmary chapel in order to be with the community.

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This year Sister Clothildis would have celebrated her 70th anniversary of religious profession. Now she is with the God of her life, making joyful music in His presence where she will celebrate an unending jubilee. We are grateful to God and to Sister for her almost 70 years of dedicated and loving service to others as a Missionary Sister of the Sacred Heart.

The Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated on Thursday, January 20 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

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