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Provincialate
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April 7, 1981

"Father of love, source of blessings, help us to pass from our old life of sin to the new life of grace. Prepare us for the glory of your kingdom."

(Closing prayer of evening prayers)

Dear Sisters,

Little did we know that as Sister Consilia prayed this prayer on Monday evening that she was nearing the final hours of preparation to enter into God's kingdom.

Sister M. Consilia, MSC - Anna Figgen
Born: November 15, 1895 in Deifeld, Westfalia, Germany
First Profession: December 1, 1923
Died: April 7, 1981 in Reading, Pennsylvania

Sister Consilia came to the United States as a postulant in 1922. She began her active apostolate in domestic service in St. Joseph-in-the-Hills Retreat House in Malvern. Several years later she attended the Sacred Heart Hospital School of Nursing, Allentown. After her graduation in 1934 she served in the nursing apostolate at Good Samaritan Hospital in Pottsville, St. Joseph Health Resort, Wedron, and Villa St. Elizabeth Home for the Aged. Sister Consilia's concern for the sick and the aged was evident in her loving care of them.

In 1975, when Villa St. Elizabeth was discontinued as a home for the elderly, Sister Consilia remained there with the community. She continued to be active, helping out in the kitchen, laundry and wherever she was needed. She was always friendly and ready to serve.

Last Wednesday Sister Consilia came to the motherhouse to join the Sisters in Holy Family Villa for her annual retreat. Yesterday she received the Sacrament of the Anointing with the other retreatants. Today, the final day of the retreat, a few Sisters missed her and went to look for her. They discovered that she had slept away very peacefully. These grace-filled days of retreat were a beautiful preparation for her meeting with the Lord.

Her death came as a surprise to everyone. Sister Consilia already had her ticket and passport for her trip to Germany in July. She was looking forward to celebrating her brother's eightieth birthday and the silver jubilee of her niece, Sister M. Theresia (Therenata), MSC.

The Mass of the Resurrection will be offered for Sister Consilia on Friday, April 10, at 4:00 p.m. followed by the burial in our convent cemetery. Let us continue to remember our dear Sister in our prayers.

In the love of our Lord,

Sister M. Theresita, M.S.C.