

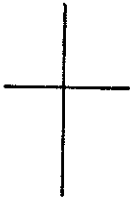
Province Center
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January 20, 1994

"God indeed is my Savior; I am confident and unafraid."
(Canticle of Isaiah - Morning Prayer)

Dear Sisters,

This morning at 12:15 A.M., Sister Constance surrendered very quietly and peacefully to God's call. The above verse from morning prayer expresses well the experience of Sister Constance's last hours. A few days before her death, Sister became congested and developed a fever. Her condition worsened so the priest was asked to anoint her. However, she grew gradually weaker until God her Savior decided to come for her. The final cause of death was congestive heart failure. Sister Anne was with her when she died.



Sister M. Constance (Contarda) - Anna Knis
Born: October 27, 1907 in Reading, PA
First Profession: August 26, 1928
Died: January 20, 1994 in Reading, PA

Sister Constance began her acquaintance with the community in grade school in St. Michael's, Lansford. She entered the aspirancy in 1923 so that her affiliation with the community existed for 71 years.

Sister's ministry throughout her life was in the area of education. She taught grades one through seven and mathematics in high school at the following locations: St. John's, Allentown; St. John's, Haycock; SS. Cyril and Methodius, Reading; Sacred Heart, Palmerton; St. Henry's, Philadelphia; Nativity High School, Pottsville; Assumption BVM, Slatington; St. Joseph's, Athens, Georgia; Holy Guardian Angels', Reading; and St. Michael's, Lansford. She served as accountant for one year at Sacred Heart Home, Coopersburg. During her later years of active ministry she was school librarian, combining that with part-time teaching.

Sister retired to the Motherhouse in 1985 and for two years was the convent librarian. Because of failing health, she moved to Holy

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Family Healthcare Unit in 1987. She became bedridden in July of 1993 when she suffered a stroke which affected her speech and ability to walk. Some months prior to the stroke and continuing until her death, a change came over Sister Constance - a change which was noted by both nursing staff and the sisters. She reflected a great serenity and joyful acceptance of all that life was bringing to her.

The day before she died, as Sister Dacia was praying with her, Sister noted in Constance's expression a gradual letting go of all anxiety. It seemed that she was consciously welcoming God's invitation to come into His Kingdom.

We rejoice with Sister Constance that she is in possession of the knowledge that "God indeed is my Savior."

We thank Sister Constance for her many years of presence to us and for her life of service. The Mass of Resurrection will be celebrated on Monday, January 24, 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