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Provincialate
Seminary Avenue
Hyde Park, Reading, Pa. 19605
Phone: (215) 929-5079
June 15, 1983

"Not my will but yours be done".

Dear Sisters,

The above scriptural quotation was one that was so much a part of the life of Sister M. Damiana for so many years. This morning at 8:55 a.m. she completed the will of the Father and returned her soul to Him.



Sister M. Damiana - Ferdinande Schoening
Born: May 30, 1887 in Westfalia, Germany
First Profession: May 13, 1909
Died: June 15, 1983 in Reading,
Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

Sister M. Damiana came to the United States in 1912. She had a long active ministry in domestic services. Sister spent nineteen years in homes for children in St. Paul's, Reading, in Brooklyn and Coopersburg. She had a great love for children and interest in their welfare, which she took with her even into retirement. For twenty-nine years she was housekeeper in several school missions including Philadelphia, Palmerton, Lansford, Haycock, Devon, and Hilltown. She also was for several years in the seminary in New Hamburg and eight years in Sacred Heart Hospital, Allentown. Wherever she ministered she had a great concern and interest for those she served. Over the years she endeared herself to many and was fondly referred to as "Grossmutter".

Sister M. Damiana had a great devotion to the Blessed Mother especially under the title of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. She considered it a privilege that for eighteen years she was stationed in a parish that bore that name. Sister M. Damiana had many physical sufferings throughout her life, but she bore them patiently and joyfully for the conversion of sinners. Often she said, "Everything for Jesus".

In 1971 Sister M. Damiana came to the motherhouse to retire. Over these years her strength began to fail and she became progressively weaker. She continuously prayed her rosary and was most grateful for any service rendered her. Several days ago Sister was taken to St. Joseph's Hospital. She was supposed to return home today, but when the call came we were told instead that she had peacefully and quietly entered into eternal life.

With love and gratitude we will remember Sister M. Damiana and the many years she shared her life with us.

The Mass of the Resurrection will be on Saturday, June 18, at 11:00 a.m., after which she will be laid to rest in the convent cemetery.

Yours in the love of Christ,

Sister M. Thomasita, M.B.

MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART