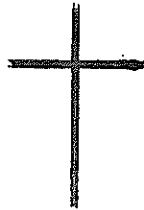


Provincialate  
Seminary Avenue  
Hyde Park, Reading, Pa. 19605  
Phone: (215) 929-5079  
October 20, 1986

"Those who welcome the Word as the guest of their hearts will have abiding joy." (Today's morning prayer)

Dear Sisters,

For so many years, Sister Donata has welcomed the Lord as the guest of her heart and today He called her to share in his eternal joy.



Sister M. Donata - Wilhelmine Uttecht  
Born: July 4, 1887  
First Profession: May 14, 1912  
Entered into eternal life: October 20, 1986

Sister Donata was the oldest living member in our world-wide congregation. She was born in Helbershausen, West Germany, entered our community in 1910 and came to the United States in November, 1912. From 1912 until 1958, she worked in the kitchen of many of our stations, among them: St. Michael Convent, St. Paul Orphanage, St. Cyril & Methodius, and Villa St. Elizabeth, all in Reading; Columbus, Cincinnati, and Dayton, Ohio; Wedron and Geneva, Illinois; Wellsburg, West Virginia; Rockaway Park, New York; and Slatington, Pa. One of the places where sister worked the longest was Sacred Heart Hospital in Norristown. Although sister had not been there since 1950, some of the people who were acquainted with her there and recalled her kindness to them, still came to visit her and kept up correspondence until the present time. Sister Donata was a very capable cook and provided well for all who were in her care.

In 1958 Sister Donata came to the motherhouse. For a while, she worked in our diet kitchen and also helped in the main kitchen. As her years of semi-retirement moved into retirement, she kept busy by doing much hand sewing for the sewing room. Born on July 4, the American Independence Day, Sister Donata seemed to have something of that spirit of independence. As she advanced in years, even up to one month ago, she continued to do quite a bit of her own sewing, all her own correspondence with family and friends, and took rather good care of herself. God had blessed Sister Donata with a very clear mind, a marvelous memory, and good eye sight. In these last years, walking became more and more difficult for her, but she usually went to the main dining room for her evening meal.

In addition to all her little activities, Sister Donata prayed much. When one came to visit her, she was often found with her prayerbook or rosary in hand. If you gave her an intention to pray for, you could be sure that she checked with you periodically to see if her prayers were being answered. She was very conscious of offering her prayers and her sufferings to save souls.

About a month ago, Sister Donata was hospitalized with a heart condition. When I visited her, she told me how good God was to her all during her life; how much joy she had experienced from Him; and that now she felt it was time for her to step out of the picture and let others have that same joy. Sister spent only a few days in the hospital. When she returned to the infirmary, she never regained her strength. She told us time and again that she wanted to die and she was ready. For the last several days, as she grew weaker, one of the sisters was always with her. Today at 2:30 p.m., while several sisters prayed at her bedside, the Lord called her to share the fullness of his life and the fullness of his joy.

The Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated on Thursday, October 23, at 4:00 p.m. followed by the burial in our convent cemetery. Let us remain united with sister in our prayers, asking God to let us share in his joy as Sister Donata wished for us.

In the love of our Lord,

*Sister Philips*