

September 6, 1993

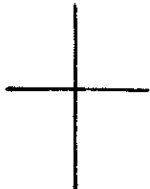
"May we bring the spirit of Christ to all our efforts
and work with our brothers and sisters at our common task."

(Opening Prayer - Labor Day)
[national holiday]

Dear Sisters,

This morning around 3:30 A.M., God, our loving Father, came for Sister Elizabeth. She gave almost 71 years of her life as a Missionary Sister of the Sacred Heart, bringing the spirit of Christ to all of us. What a fitting day for Sister Elizabeth to die - Labor Day - she who labored so long and so zealously in God's world.

For several weeks Sister was not feeling well. The many tests she had taken did not reveal anything serious. It just seems that her body was wearing out so that eventually uremic poisoning and heart failure brought on her death. One of our nurses, Rose Tucci, offered to stay with Sister during the night. She heard Sister Elizabeth singing, "Maria zu lieben" and praying, "Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place my trust in you." As Rose went to turn her to make her more comfortable, Sister quietly breathed her last. No one expected her life to end so quickly.



Sister M. Elizabeth - Theresia Langkamp
Born: March 22, 1901 in Wallenhorst, Germany
First Profession: November 30, 1922
Died: September 6, 1993 in Reading, Pa.

Sister Elizabeth had many and varied ministries. She was a grade school teacher at SS. Cyril & Methodius, Bethlehem; Sacred Heart, Palmerton; Holy Family, Nazareth. She also served as principal at St. John's, Allentown and Mt. St. Michael High School, Reading. At several of these places she also served as superior in addition to her other duties. For several years she served as school supervisor and provincial councillor. Then she assumed the responsibility of provincial superior for nine years - 1957 to 1966. Upon the end of her term, she worked on the committee for the revision of our constitutions at the Generalate in Ariccia. After this work was completed, she went back to teaching for a year; then

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became superior, sacristan, and patient visitor in Good Samaritan Hospital, Pottsville. She also did patient visiting in Sacred Heart Hospital, Allentown, and then became superior and administrator of Villa St. Elizabeth, Reading. She joined Holy Family Community in 1981, where, although retired, never ceased doing for others. Sister read to small groups of sisters and corresponded with relatives of sisters unable to do this for themselves. She did countless acts of kindness in looking after the needs of the sick and retired sisters.

I think of Sister Elizabeth's life as a reed on which she allowed God to play His melody. In the book, The Reed of God, the author tells of how painful it is to become a reed. We have to let God carve and cut out so that we can become an instrument on which He can play. Sister Elizabeth let God do this in her life. As she lay dying, she said, "Pray that I may do only what God wants." This openness to God's will symbolized her life. She let God play His melody.

Sister Elizabeth was blessed by God with a very clear mind and the ability to remember details even at her advanced age. He also graced her with tremendous generosity. Although she broke her hip and had to use a walker, she continued to look to the needs of others. She was always on the lookout to be of help.

One of Sister Elizabeth's outstanding qualities was her openness to change. She attended all community meetings and fully participated in them. This summer she attended Province Days and tried, in spite of her age, to be a contributor to the group discussions.

Sister was looking forward to the ordination day of her great-grand-nephew in October in Rome. She told Sister Bridget that she wanted to offer herself so that her nephew would be a good and faithful priest. She has the best vantage point now to pray for him and for all of us. We are deeply grateful to Sister Elizabeth for her selfless life.

The Mass of Resurrection will be celebrated at St. Michael's Convent on Thursday, September 9, 1993, at 3:30 P.M. She will then be laid to rest in the convent cemetery.

United in the Heart of Jesus,

Sister Teresita, M.S.C.

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