

Province Center
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January 13, 1993

"My life is at the service of the Gospel;
God has given me this gift of His grace."

(Antiphon for Evening Prayer)

Dear Sisters,

Sister Felicia's almost 70 years of religious profession were truly placed at the service of the Gospel. She treasured the gift of her religious vocation and used this gift as an educator to impart to thousands of students the beauty of Jesus and His teaching.

Sister Felicia was admitted to St. Joseph Hospital on January 7 with pneumonia and congestive heart failure, complicated by her diabetes. Just a week later, she peacefully fell asleep in the Lord while several sisters prayed at her bedside. Shortly before she died, she had one of her wishes granted by the Lord. She had expressed to a sister that she prayed many times to have a priest with her when she was dying. Her prayer was heard in the person of Father Joseph Gaspar, MSC, who had just come to the hospital to relieve the chaplain. He went into her room to pray with her. When he came out, he said, "She is all set to go."

Sister M. Felicia - Josephine Draeger
Born: March 2, 1903 in Hoerstel, Germany
First Profession: December 1, 1923
Died: January 13, 1993 in Reading, Pa.

Sister Felicia came to the United States as a postulant in 1922. From 1924 to 1983 Sister served in the ministry of education as teacher, as principal, and as superior. Her assignments took her to St. Henry's, Philadelphia; St. John's, Haycock; Holy Guardian Angels, Reading; OLSH, Hilltown; SS. Cyril & Methodius, Coaldale; and Incarnation, Palos Heights. She was known to be an expert teacher. She loved the children and shared with them her love and enthusiasm for Jesus and all of life. Nothing was too much for Sister when it came to religious instructions. She would often volunteer for an extra class for a student who needed private religious instruction. She was loved by the parents, the teaching staff, and the priests of the parish.

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During her teaching career, Sister inspired several of her grade school boys to become priests. She made it her special mission to pray for them. She was so proud of them.

When Sister went to part-time activity in school, she took it upon herself to visit the elderly shut-ins in an apartment close to the school. She also loved gardening and needlework.

Sister Felicia retired to Villa St. Elizabeth community in 1983 where she remained until 1987 when she became a member of Holy Family Community. She suffered from chronic congestive heart failure and diabetes. She accepted her illness with patience and loving resignation. God's will was all that mattered to her.

As time went on, physical energy gradually diminished and a wheelchair replaced her walker. Becoming more dependent on the services of others was difficult, but she accepted all this as a gift from the Father. From their contact with her, the staff noticed that she loved being a religious and a teacher. One stated how she would ask Sister Felicia to explain Bible passages for her and how it enriched her spiritual life.

Sister Felicia was a very prayerful person and filled with a deep faith. Centering prayer was her way of union in the last phase of her life. It was a great source of her spiritual growth and nourishment. In community, she was pleasant, cooperative, and always ready and willing to help wherever necessary. She was always interested in others, hearing about their experiences, sharing their joys and sorrows.

It was always a joy to visit Sister Felicia in her retirement. Her whole person lit up at the joy of your visit to her. We know that now, too, Sister will be enjoying the eternal visit of her greatest and best of all visitors, Jesus.

On Saturday, January 16, 1993, at 3:00 P.M., we shall celebrate the Mass of the Resurrection for Sister. She will then be laid to rest in our convent cemetery. We are grateful to Sister Felicia for placing her life totally at the service of the Gospel.

One in the Heart of Jesus,

Sister Teresita, M.S.C.

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