

" Lord you have given me all. One thing more I pray.
Give me a grateful heart and let it grow."

Dear Sisters,

The night before Sister Florence went to Sacred Heart Hospital in Norristown for surgery, I spent some time with her. We talked about many things: life and death, joys and sorrows, hurts and healings. It was a privileged time as Sister shared with me many graces from her life. One of them she formulated in the above quote. Sister Florence died suddenly last evening at 4:45 p.m.



Sister M. Florence - Gisella Walakovitz
Born: February 26, 1920 in Coplay, Pennsylvania
First Profession: August 26, 1940
Entered into eternal life: January 30, 1990

Sister Florence spent most of her apostolic ministry in education. She taught in parish elementary schools in Palmerton, Nazareth, and Coopersburg from 1941 to 1948. From 1948 to 1974 she taught in Little Flower High School in Philadelphia and Nativity in Pottsville. As a science teacher she cultivated a great interest in nature and instilled a joy and enthusiasm for God's creation into the lives of her students. From 1975 to 1987 Sister Florence worked as a receptionist in Sacred Heart Hospital, Norristown. From 1987 till her last illness, Sister Florence was the librarian at St. Michael Convent in Reading.

Sister Florence was a woman of many talents. She was very artistic and used these gifts in many ways including journaling. She loved flowers and was known for her prize-winning roses.

Sister Florence had several serious illnesses in her life. In order to save what little sight she still had, Sister recently underwent several serious eye surgeries. In the last few years she had become very attuned to the sufferings of Jesus and grew in the acceptance of her own sufferings.

On December 11 Sister Florence went to Sacred Heart Hospital, Norristown for a hernia operation. The doctor had been monitoring her progress carefully because of her past medical history. Today she was finally moved to the rehabilitation unit of the hospital. About an hour before she died, Sister Patrice, one of the pastoral ministers in our hospital, visited her and brought her Holy Communion. Within the next half hour, Sister Florence was struck with a massive pulmonary embolism and died.

Sister Florence was well prepared to meet her God. She often talked about dying and she made some definite plans regarding her death before she went to the hospital, even to the point of having her dress, veil, and rosary set aside for her burial. Since September of 1989 she had been on a self-designed sabbatical which gave her time to reflect on her life, to devote extra time to prayer and, as she so often said, "to prepare for eternity."

We join with Sister Florence in thanking the Lord for her many gifts and graces that He has given to her throughout her life, especially in these recent past years. Our love and prayers will continue to be with her.

The Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated on Saturday, February 3, 1990 at 11:00 a.m. Afterwards she will be buried in the convent cemetery.

In the love of the Lord,

Sister MaryAnne