

October 10, 1989

"Resting in the heart of Jesus."

Dear Sisters,

This is the phrase that Sister Gertrude requested be inscribed upon her tombstone, and what a fitting epitaph it is for her!



Sister M. Gertrude - Mary Zunec  
Born: September 17, 1914, in Tuscarora, Pennsylvania  
First Profession: August 25, 1936  
Entered into eternal life: October 10, 1989

Sister Gertrude was a quiet, gentle, loving presence for all who had the privilege of living with her or of coming under her influence in ministry. From 1938 to 1953 she served as a cook at St. Michael's in Reading, Columbus, Ohio and Sacred Heart Hospital, Norristown. She was an excellent cook and was always ready to help out in that capacity even in her later school assignments.

From 1953 to 1981 Sister Gertrude taught kindergarten at Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Reading, St. Joseph's in Athens, Georgia and St. Henry's in Philadelphia. From her own deep prayer life there seemed to flow her ability to relate to little children much as Jesus himself must have done. She, indeed, "allowed the little children to come" to the Lord. She also gave her little ones a fine preparation for their later education and was much loved by children and parents alike. Sister Gertrude was especially skilled in art, a talent that she used generously to bring joy to others.

Sister Gertrude's patient and serene disposition was able to withstand even the onslaughts of many years of painful and debilitating illness, as she suffered from progressive Parkinson's disease. More recently she was diagnosed as having malignant brain tumors, which left her in an apparently comatose condition for the past several weeks. However, she did respond by opening her eyes or making other slight movements when anyone spoke to her or prayed with her. This was noted by her always loving and devoted family as they gathered at her bedside for her recent 75th birthday.

For some time the Sisters at St. Michael's have been taking turns watching and praying at her bedside. After a quiet night Sister Gertrude entered peacefully into the joy of the Lord at 7:15 this morning, just in time to be remembered at the morning Mass.

The Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated for Sister Gertrude on Friday, October 13, at 3:30 p.m., followed by burial in our convent cemetery where she will be, in her own words, "Resting in the heart of Jesus."

In the love of the Lord,

*Sister Rita M. Chumann, M.S.E.*

