

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

May 7, 1983

*"My strength and my courage is the Lord
and He has been my Savior."
(Morning Prayers)*

Dear Sisters,

Shortly after midnight last night, our loving Savior came to take Sister M. Godeharda home to Himself.

— Sister M. Godeharda, MSC - Johanna Kirchner
Born: November 10, 1895
First Profession: May 16, 1919
Died: May 7, 1983

Sr. Godeharda came to the United States on September 23, 1936. In her quiet, unassuming, and gentle way, she served our province as sacristan and in domestic work for 45 years at St. Michael's, Reading; St. Mary's Hospital, Athens; St. John's Home, Brooklyn; St. Joseph Retreat House, Malvern, and Sacred Heart Hospital, Allentown.

In 1981, while sacristan at Sacred Heart Hospital, Sr. Godeharda fell and fractured her hip. Following treatment at Sacred Heart Hospital, Sister came to the motherhouse to join the retired.

Always pleasant, never demanding, Sister witnessed God's love to all of us. The infirmiry staff gave her the endearing name: "The Princess". Petite and fragile, everyone marvelled at the undaunted courage and strength which was so evident in her life. The source of this courage and strength was clear to all of us, for Sister often said: "I'm not afraid. I trust in the Lord."

Yesterday morning, Sister was with us at breakfast. Around 8:15 a.m., one of the infirmiry nurses went to her room and found her unconscious on the floor, apparently from a stroke. She was taken immediately to St. Joseph Hospital, but never regained consciousness. At 12:30 a.m. today, the first Saturday of May, the Savior came in the fullness of the strength of His love.

We know that Sister will continue her quiet and unassuming presence among us as she intercedes for each of us before the throne of God.

The Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated on Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. and the burial will take place in the convent cemetery Tuesday morning.

In the love of Christ,

Sister Thomasita, M.S.C.