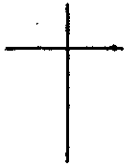


"My reward is with the Lord; my recompense is with my God."
(First Reading from the Mass
on Tuesday of Holy Week)

Dear Sisters,

This morning Sister M. Herma knew the meaning of these words in the reality of vision. The nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital had looked in on Sister Herma around 3:30 a.m. and on her second round at 5:00 a.m. found that Sister had died.



Sister M. Herma, MSC - Theresia Schleiner
Born: May 25, 1908
First Profession: September 2, 1931
Died: March 26, 1991

Sister M. Herma was diagnosed with inoperable cancer in April of 1989. She went through several courses of radiation and chemotherapy which helped to alleviate some of her pain. The cancer, however, continued to spread into her lungs. She got some relief by periodic tapping. They were planning to insert a tube during her last hospital stay, but God chose to answer her prayer to be with Him.

Sister came to the United States in May of 1931, just a few months before first profession. Sister was an elementary school teacher for 42 years, serving in Northampton, Reading, Allentown Lansford and Coplay. When sister was unable to teach, she worked in the school library and also visited the elderly in St. Peter's Parish in Coplay where she spent 37 years of her religious life. Sister retired to St. Michael's in 1987 but the following year she joined Holy Family Center community. This May Sister would have celebrated 60 years of religious profession.

Sister was a very gifted teacher. She also had an artistic bent, teaching art to children in grades other than her own. During her years of retirement she did a variety of needlework for sisters or for some of the lay employees. She would try to keep her mind active by putting together picture puzzles and inviting others to come into her room to help her.

Sister Herma suffered much, both physically and psychologically. She was very sensitive by nature, which added to her own suffering, but which also helped her to be in touch with the suffering

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of others. In her room she found much consolation in looking at a nature picture which showed rocks in the water. As she would look at the picture, she would say, "God you are my Rock and my Salvation." These words were part of the responsorial psalm of the Mass on the morning of her death. She also loved to picture herself in the palm of God's hand recalling the words of the prophet Isaiah.

The last two weeks of her religious life Sister Herma longed for death. She prayed often to Mary and Joseph for the grace of a happy death. Her initial fears and anxieties were gradually replaced by a deep trust and confidence in God's love for her just the way she was. She truly relied on his mercy and compassion.

We shall celebrate the Mass of the Resurrection for Sister on Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. Sister will then be buried in our convent cemetery. We rejoice with Sister that she truly is now in the palm of God.

United in the Heart of God,

Sister Teresita, MSC