

Province Center
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January 24, 1993

"One thing I ask of the Lord; this I seek
to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;
That I may gaze on the loveliness of the Lord
and contemplate his temple."
(Responsorial Psalm from today's Liturgy)

Dear Sisters,

This morning at 5:30 a.m. we received word from St. Joseph's Hospital that Sister Hildburg had died. She now gazes on the loveliness of the Lord; she possesses the One she spent so much time contemplating.

Early Thursday morning, January 12, Sister Ethel sensed that something was wrong as she glanced into the bedroom of Sister Hildburg and saw her lying on the bed fully dressed. Sister Ethel went into the room but Sister Hildburg did not respond to her. Father Jung was called. He anointed Sister before the ambulance arrived to take her to the hospital. She had had a massive stroke which left her paralyzed on the right side and unable to speak.

The sisters visited Sister Hildburg frequently in the hospital and initially she was clear, alert, and able to communicate with her facial expression, especially her eyes. She seemed to respond to their conversations with a slight smile. They prayed with her and thanked her for her goodness and holiness of life and for all that she did for us and for all she was to us.

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Sister M. Hildburg - Anna Moehlen
Born: September 29, 1899
First Profession: December 1, 1923
Died: January 24, 1993 in Reading, PA

Sister Hildburg came to the United States as a postulant in 1922. From 1924 to 1934 she taught in grade school at SS. Cyril and Methodius in Reading; Our Lady of Hungary, Northampton; and St. Peter's, Coplay. Then for fourteen years she was community supervisor of schools and assistant to the provincial, Mother Stephania. After the latter's assignment to Peru in 1948, Sister Hildburg became provincial. Upon completion of her term in 1957, she was assigned to Wedron as superior and administrator. She then moved on to being superior and assistant administrator in Limeport and in Villa St. Elizabeth. Her last assignment before retiring was in Wellsburg where she helped in the office. Today, her death date, it is exactly five years that she left Wellsburg to retire at St. Michael's.

Sister Hildburg was remarkable for her simplicity, her humility, and her prayerfulness. As a young sister, she was noted for her mature judgment coupled with a real sense of humor. She provided entertainment many a time for the sisters by performing in funny shows. She was also always ready to lend a helping hand. That was very striking here at the motherhouse. During her early years of retirement she offered to do a small cleaning job. Until the time she had the stroke, sister fed the sisters in Holy Family Center doing this with great love and joy. She also visited our retired and sick, encouraging them by her presence. Sister helped to make thousands of rosaries as part of her outreach.

When sister became provincial in 1948, she helped rekindle our missionary charism by sending the first sisters to Papua New Guinea since 1925. She continued sending sisters every few years. She was a deep contemplative in action, very interested in all of life at 93 years of age. She read newspapers and magazines so as to keep in touch with the universal church and the needs of the world. She reached out to others, showing herself very kind to the sisters and to our lay employees alike.

Sister had a great devotion to the Sacred Heart and promoted the practice of enthronement of the Sacred Heart and Holy Hours. In order to encourage the spirit of prayer and the love of the Sacred Heart, Sister had the MSC hymnal compiled along with the Eucharistic Manual.

She was responsible for the construction of the novitiate building and of St. Michael's Convent. She spent much time in planning for these projects and especially for the chapel. She will view from heaven the changes that will be made in the sanctuary of the chapel, changes which she said she had hoped would come about.

Sister Hildburg always showed interest in anything that pertained to our life in the province, praying and sacrificing that we continue to grow in our MSC spirituality of the heart. We will be forever grateful to Sister Hildburg for her life.

On Tuesday, January 26, 1993 at 3:30 p.m., we shall celebrate the Mass of the Resurrection for sister. She will then be laid to rest in our convent cemetery.

United in the Heart of Jesus,

Sister Teresa, M.S.C.

