

Province Center
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January 15, 1992

"I have waited, waited for the Lord, and He stooped toward me."
(Responsorial Psalm from the Wednesday Liturgy)

Dear Sisters,

This morning around 11:10 a.m. the Lord stooped toward Sister Josephine and took her to Himself. Her waiting for Him ended; she now sees Him face to face.



Sister M. Josephine Tacken (Tobia)
Born: November 9, 1898 in Erwitte, Germany
First Profession: May 6, 1924
Died: January 15, 1992

Sister Josephine had just returned from a two-week hospital stay. The following morning while sitting in a chair in her room, Sister started showing signs of distress. The nurses immediately returned her to bed. Shortly after, Sister Josephine peacefully died. One might say that Sister's gentle death was so much in keeping with her gentle life.

Sister Josephine came to the United States in March of 1923 as a novice. Sister ministered as housekeeper in many school stations: Allentown, Hilltown, Reading, and Bethlehem. She also served in the kitchen in larger institutions in Pottsville, Malvern, Geneva, Coopersburg, Villa St. Elizabeth, and at the Motherhouse. Sister retired to Holy Family Center in 1985 at the age of 87.

Known for her very happy, gentle disposition, Sister was always grateful for anything done for her. It was easy to love her. The nurses who looked after her said she rarely complained and usually radiated a smiling face.

Sister Josephine had several serious cancer surgeries. Her most recent hospitalization was due to a fall in which she broke several ribs. Through all of this Sister was very kind and patient. She loved community and, even though not well, she would always try to be with the group.

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The Mass was very special to Sister. Even in her confusion she would always inquire about the time for Holy Mass, her whole life seeming to center around the Eucharist. Mary, too, was very important to her and she liked to sing "Maria zu lieben."

On Friday, January 17 at 11:00 a.m., we shall celebrate the Mass of the Resurrection for Sister. She will then be buried in our convent cemetery. We are grateful to Sister Josephine for her gift of a gentle life.

United in the Heart of Jesus,

Sister Teresita, M. S. C.