

January 17, 1989

"I called to the Lord in my distress;  
He answered and freed me."

(Morning Prayers)

Dear Sisters,

These words of the psalmist were surely the words of Sister Mary Emma during the last weeks of her illness when she suffered so much. Her bridegroom relieved her Sunday afternoon, a day after her birthday.



Sister Mary Emma (Tigrida/Tilgrida)  
- Emma Poetter

Born: January 14, 1911

First Profession: February 3, 1934

Entered into Eternal Life: January 15, 1989

Sister Mary Emma came to the United States in 1935. After attending nursing school at Sacred Heart in Allentown, she went on for specialty training in anesthesia and later completed the program on Operating Room Supervision at the Catholic University of America.

She spent 31 years in Sacred Heart Hospital in Allentown, 24 of these were in the capacity as operating room supervisor. Sister Mary Emma also served in geriatric nursing at Villa St. Elizabeth in Reading for 5 years, in Sacred Heart, Norristown for 1 year, and then she became coordinator of our retirement community at the Motherhouse until her own retirement in 1984.

Sister Mary Emma had a special gift for being very calm and composed in the midst of very frightening and stressful situations. She was a very capable nurse and loved this ministry. Throughout her life she was always so gentle, kind, patient, and loving. Once when one of the sisters asked her what her secret was, she simply answered "That's the way the Lord wants us to be."

In her years of retirement at the Motherhouse, she received great joy in being able to serve the sisters in the retirement center by helping to care for their personal needs.

About a year ago, Sister Mary Emma was diagnosed with cancer. After having surgery for the removal of a kidney, she recovered very well and again went about on her own little errands of mercy among the elderly sisters. On the 21st of December she was again admitted to the hospital, this time with excruciating pain in her back. A large tumor pressing on the spinal cord was discovered. In these last days her suffering was intense. The sisters took turns watching by her bedside in the hospital. On Sunday, January 15, at 3:25 p.m. she very peacefully surrendered her life into the hands of her loving Father.

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We thank the Lord for touching our lives all these years through the gentle and loving presence of Sister Mary Emma. In love and gratitude we will prayerfully remember her.

The Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated in our convent chapel on Wednesday, January 18, at 11 a.m., after which she will be buried in our convent cemetery.

In the love of our Lord,

*Sister Mary Anne*