

February 9, 1993

"May God give you your heart's desire
And fulfill every one of your plans."

(Evening Prayer)

Dear Sisters,

This evening at 8:05 P.M., God called Sister Leo to Himself. She now has all her heart's desires fulfilled.

During the past few years, Sister Leo suffered several heart attacks and strokes. She was rehabilitated sufficiently to be able to walk without assistance. More recently, however, she was confined to a wheelchair.

About two weeks ago, Sister Leo had another stroke which was complicated with heart failure. Over the last few days, she began to decline noticeably. She was unable to take nourishment and her breathing was labored. The nurses tried to make her as comfortable as possible and she was supported by the presence of the sisters.



Sister Mary Leo - Sybilla Fassbender
Born: April 20, 1903 in Oberhausen, Germany
First Profession: August 16, 1926
Died: February 9, 1993 in Reading, Pa.

Sister Leo came to the United States in May of 1931 and by September she was teaching grades two and three in SS. Cyril and Methodius School in Bethlehem. After this seven-year assignment, she went on to complete her teaching degree at Villanova University. This was followed by many years of teaching at St. Michael's, Lansford; OLSH, Hilltown; St. Michael's Aspirancy, Reading; St. Peter's, Coplay; HGA, Reading; and Incarnation, Palos Heights.

Many of our sisters remember Sister Leo as their teacher in the Aspirancy where she taught for 23 years. She was well loved as a teacher of history, Latin, English, art, and music. Her classes were very lively and interesting. The aspirants learned from her,

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not just in the classroom, but in life outside the classroom setting. She was also known for her ability to direct plays. She would often be called in to help with dance routines. Her ready smile and encouragement made some of the more reluctant actors look forward to play practice. She was an excellent organist, using her musical gifts in teaching the piano and organ to the high school students and novices.

Sister Leo retired from teaching in 1976, her ministry for 45 years. She then served as sacristan in the motherhouse chapel until 1984, when she retired to Holy Family Community.

Sister Leo was a very generous person - generous with her time, her many gifts, herself. She was also a very grateful person, remembering any small favor done for her. Many sisters remember her gentleness as a teacher and community member. She was a very conscientious person, never attracting attention to herself, and very prayerful.

As a member of Holy Family Community and as a patient, she accepted her suffering with loving resignation to "His holy will". The nurses described her as "a very good patient." They loved her and during the last days of her life would sit at her bedside before going off duty.

We are grateful to Sister Leo for her dedicated, generous life. During her lifetime, she was always ready to pray for any special intention given to her. We trust that now she will continue to plead for us before the throne of God.

We shall celebrate the Mass of the Resurrection for Sister on Friday, February 12, 1993, at 3:30 P.M. She will then be laid to rest in our convent cemetery.

One in the Heart of Jesus,

Sister Teresita, M.S.C.

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