

July 30, 1988

"Here I am Lord; I come to do Your will."

(Psalm 40:2-4)

Dear Sisters,

Today at 7:30 a.m., Sister Menulpha accomplished her ultimate surrender, that of her soul into the hands of her Creator.



Sister Menulpha - Gertrude Feischen
Born: April 27, 1899 in Ahlen, W. Germany
First Profession: May 6, 1924
Entered into Eternal Life: July 30, 1988

Sister Menulpha came to the United States as a postulant in 1923. For fifty-seven years she was involved in the teaching ministry. Thirteen of these years were spent in elementary school in Nazareth and Philadelphia. During the other 44, Sister Menulpha served as "housemother" for the aspirants in St. Michael's, Reading, and she also taught several classes in the high school.

At this same time she gave catechetical instructions in St. Mary's Parish in Kutztown and in the parish's mission church. Till today, people whom she taught many years ago still remember her and ask for her. From 1971-1981 Sister Menulpha taught part-time in Holy Family School in Nazareth, and in 1981 she came to the motherhouse to retire.

For many years Sister Menulpha suffered from Parkinson's disease. Sister Menulpha's life was one of fidelity in little things. She was very kind, soft-spoken, and always ready to give loving service. She was a very God-centered person and looked upon everything that came into her life as God's will for her. She was deeply prayerful and loved community prayer. When she was no longer able to go to chapel for common prayer, a few sisters would gather daily in her room to pray together with her.

In recent years as the disease progressed, she became completely helpless and dependent on others for every need, yet she never complained and was always patient. She was mindful that her mission in these years was that of prayer and suffering with Jesus for God's glory and for souls. Even when verbal communication became too difficult for her to express her needs, she was a model of patience and was most grateful for every service. When she could no longer hold objects, she wanted her rosary around her wrist. She knew why she suffered because, like her mother, she prayed, "Lord, here cut, here burn, but spare me in eternity."

(over)

In the last few days before her death, Sister Menulpha grew progressively weaker. This morning she died as she lived, quietly and peacefully, after several days of patient waiting for the Lord's coming.

We will celebrate the Mass of the Resurrection for Sister Menulpha on Tuesday, August 2, at 11 a.m. The burial in the convent cemetery will follow. We thank Sister Menulpha for her kindness and goodness to us and pray that the Lord whose will she carried out so faithfully throughout her life will now be her joy and her reward.

In the love of our Lord,

Sister Menulpha