

"Little children, let us love in deed and in truth
and not merely talk about it."

1 Jn. 3:18

(Second Reading of the 5th Sunday of Easter)

These words of St. John, proclaimed in today's second reading, summarize the life of our Sister Methodia who for 79 years of faithfulness, through her consecrated life as an M.S.C., made known the love and kindness of God our Father revealed in the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Today at 7:35 a.m., when the community had just begun the Eucharistic Liturgy our loving God took her home, twelve days before her 102nd birthday.

Sister M. Methodia, M.S.C. -- Anna Soltis
Born: May 10, 1889, in Czechoslovakia
First Profession: May 14, 1912 in Hilstrup
Died: April 28, 1991

Sister Methodia really had no serious illness. The aging process showed itself in the diminishing of her mental faculties and physical activity. She was confined to bed only during the last two weeks of her life. During this past week she again received the Sacrament of the Anointing of the sick. Her life ended as she had lived, quietly and peacefully, while some Sisters prayed at her bedside. She died of love and old age.

Sister Methodia came to the United States with her parents from Czechoslovakia in 1905. She was the first American candidate to enter our congregation on July 9, 1910 in Lansford, Pa., only two years after our first Sisters arrived in the United States. On December 14, 1910 she entered the postulancy with another young woman who became Sister Cyrilla. These two Sisters who spoke no German went to the M.S.C. motherhouse in Hilstrup, Germany on January 25, 1911 to continue their religious formation. At the completion of their novitiate, their first profession took place in Hilstrup in 1912. They returned to the U. S. on Jan. 17, 1913.

Sister Methodia was assigned to teach at St. Michael's in Lansford in 1913, and was there, active in teaching, until she retired to St. Michael's Convent in Reading, Pa. in 1972. During those 59 years she taught three generations of first graders. She was a very competent teacher whose example of love taught them to know, love and serve God, and laid a firm foundation for their future academic pursuits. Her own great love of the Sacred Heart and of our Blessed Mother was so attractive and contagious that the children responded to her with enthusiasm.

Sister Methodia was gifted in many other ways and generously used these gifts in the service of others. She was a renowned artist, especially, noted for her flower paintings; an expert in decorating St. Michael's Church, particularly during the holidays; widely recognized for the dynamic productions which she directed during the annual stage shows presented by each class near the end of the school year. She wrote most of these herself.

Long before the word "tutoring" came into vogue, she conducted special classes in which she taught English to the Slovak immigrants.

Sister Methodia was also active in other community services. It was her joy to visit people, especially the sick, in their homes to give them help and comfort. She had the Sacred Heart, King of Love, enthroned in their homes.

She also spent some of her free time underground with the miners, praying for their safety. In 1960 she established a shrine of the Sacred Heart in the darkness of the mines where danger always lurked. Here the miners began and ended their day, pausing for a brief prayer. In the following 12 years, until the mine was closed, the Lanscoale mine remained accident-free. She was affectionately called the "Lanscoale Safety Director."

When in 1972, at age 83, she retired to the motherhouse in Reading, she began her second career where she continued to use her artistic gifts as sacristan till 1976.

Due to declining health she retired to Villa St. Elizabeth in Reading for 12 years. Since 1988 she has resided in the Health Care Unit at the motherhouse. Here she endeared herself to the nursing staff and to everyone who visited her, as she continued to CELEBRATE LIFE in a spirit of gratitude and joy with her special song "You Are My Sunshine," joyful folk songs and her favorite hymn, "O Maria, drohy kvet" (Mary, precious flower).

The Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated on Wednesday, May 1st at 4:00 p.m. Sister will be buried in the convent cemetery. We will continue to remember Sister Methodia in prayer, while we thank her for being an inspiration to us to goodness and holiness of life.

In the peace and joy of our Risen Lord,

Sister M. Dacia, M.S.C.

Sister M. Dacia, M.S.C.