

Province Center
2811 Moyers Lane
Reading, PA 19605
Phone: (215) 929-5944
FAX: (215) 929-3634

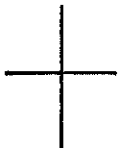
August 27, 1992

"I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
the one who follows me will have the light of life."
(Liturgy for the Feast of St. Monica)

Dear Sisters,

This morning, about 8:30 A.M., Sister M. Wilfrida entered peacefully into the light of eternal life. Many times in the past year Sister was apparently at the point of death, only to rally again (especially after the Anointing of the Sick). Though her condition was visibly deteriorating day by day, several sisters remarked that she was especially alert last evening, prayed aloud, and even sang several stanzas of her favorite hymn to Our Lady.

At about 7:00 A.M. today, we were informed that her condition had become extremely critical and were summoned to her bedside. At one point Sister Wilfrida opened her eyes wide and seemed very conscious of all that was going on around her. One of the sisters told her that Jesus was about to come for her and then prayed aloud "Jesus, I love you!" Sister Wilfrida responded by repeating this prayer at least ten times with great fervor before slipping back into a comatose state. A few minutes later she quietly breathed her final breath.



Sister M. Wilfrida, MSC - Gertrud Johannkemper
Born: May 7, 1901 in Rheda, Germany
First Profession: August 26, 1924
Died: August 27, 1992 in Reading, PA

Sister Wilfrida entered our congregation in 1923 and came to America as a postulant. Soon after completing her novitiate, Sister was ill with tuberculosis for several years at the Motherhouse.

After her recovery she studied to be a nurse, in which capacity she served in Sacred Heart Hospital, Allentown and St. Mary's Hospital in Athens, Georgia. From 1946 through 1966 Sister Wilfrida carried out the dual role of administrator and superior in (successively) St. Mary's Hospital, Athens; Sacred Heart Hospital, Norristown; Good Samaritan Hospital, Pottsville; again in St. Mary's; and finally in St. Joseph's Health Resort in Wedron.

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After capably and lovingly administering our Motherhouse infirmary for two years, Sister returned to Sacred Heart Hospital, Norristown as superior and pastoral minister. After a year in the latter role in Sacred Heart Hospital, Allentown, Sister Wilfrida returned to St. Mary's, Athens, as a member of the pastoral care team, in which capacity she served for six years.

Since 1982 Sister retired to Holy Family Center in Reading. During her many years of active ministry in a series of responsible positions, Sister Wilfrida combined great professional competence with a kind and compassionate heart. She showed special concern for any of our sisters who were patients, a kindness not easily forgotten by them.

In her years as a patient at Holy Family Center, Sister Wilfrida has been a model of patience in suffering, grateful for every service performed for her. All her life Sister has been an intensely prayerful person, having a great devotion to Our Lady, the Sacred Heart, and the Holy Eucharist.

On Monday, August 31, at 3:30 P.M., we shall celebrate the Mass of the Resurrection for Sister. She will then be laid to rest in our convent cemetery. We are grateful to God for the gift that Sister Wilfrida has been to our province and to each of us personally.

In the love of the Sacred Heart,

Sister Rita M. Ehrmann, MSC

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