

Provincialate
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June 10, 1981

"You can never do a kindness too soon because you
 never know how soon it will be too late."

(Emerson)

Dear Sisters,

Early this morning, the Lord called our dear Sister Carmela to Himself.

Sister M. Carmela - Frances Angela Rodichok
 Born: December 19, 1922 in Sheriden, Pennsylvania, USA
 First Profession: August 19, 1952
 Died: June 10, 1981 in Reading, Pennsylvania

The above quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson was taken from a leaflet that Sister Carmela had standing on the desk in her room. To all of us who knew her, it was a perfect summary of her life. Her ways were always gentle and all of us, at one time or another, have been touched by her kindness and generosity. No one will ever know how much good she did because it was all done in such a quiet way!

Sister Carmela had first entered our congregation in 1942, but was forced to return home because of an eye condition. In 1951, she returned to the novitiate.

From 1953 to 1975 Sister Carmela taught in several parish schools in Philadelphia, Coaldale, Lansford, Coopersburg, Northampton, Nazareth, and Hilltown. She was an excellent teacher and well-loved by her primary grade students and their parents. Throughout the years, she had a serious heart condition and suffered from diabetes. In 1975, she came to the motherhouse where she worked as a part-time receptionist and did various other small jobs.

Yesterday, Sister was not feeling well. She assured each Sister who looked in on her during the day that she would be alright. This morning when she was not present for morning prayers, one of the Sisters went to her room. Apparently she had just died, very peacefully, of a heart attack.

Sister Carmela had a deep devotion to the Sacred Heart. How fitting it is that the Lord should call her to Himself during this month especially dedicated to Him.

The Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated on Saturday, June 13th, at 10:00 a.m., followed by the burial in the convent cemetery. In love, and prayer, let us continue to remember our dear Sister.

In the love of Our Lord,

Sister M. Thomasita, M.S.C.