

Provinciate
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September 8, 1984

*"The Lord has chosen her, his loved one from the beginning,
He has taken her to live with Him."*

(Today's Liturgy of the Hours)

Dear Sisters,

Today in the early morning hours, Our Lord, surely accompanied by His mother, took our Sister Helen Marie to live with Him.



Sister Helen Marie, MSC
Helen Martinko
Born: May 14, 1908
First Profession: August 26, 1927
Died: September 8, 1984

Sister Helen Marie is the sister of our Sister Donna Marie, Sacred Heart Hospital, Allentown, and Sister Antonette, St. Mary's Hospital, Athens, Georgia.

Sister was born in Allentown, Pennsylvania. She entered our community in 1925, and professed perpetual vows in 1932. Sister served as an elementary school teacher for many years. She was a dedicated and loving teacher. Her ministry of making God's love present was experienced not only by the children, but by their families and other faculty members as well. Sister taught at SS. Cyril & Methodius, Bethlehem and Coaldale, St. Michael, Lansford, and Holy Family, Nazareth.

In 1957, after teaching for 29 years, Sister Helen Marie became seriously ill and had to have an adrenalectomy at the National Institute of Health, Bethesda, Maryland. She was gravely ill at that time and not expected to live, but the Lord healed her, and for thirteen more years she brought His love to others through the teaching profession.

In 1975 Sister again became seriously ill and had to begin renal dialysis three times a week. Even this became an opportunity for ministry. Often the nurses would call on her to share her gifts of acceptance, peace and joy with the other dialysis patients and their families.

Sister knew that her time was limited, and daily she prepared for the coming of our Lord. Her great love for Our Lady was her help and support. Even in her weakest moments she would cry out "Mother most merciful".