

SISTER MARY PRESENTATIA WILAMOWSKI

On March 14, 2010, death came mercifully to SM Presentatia (Jane Wilamowski), at age 95 having spent 70 of those years as a Felician Sister.

Sister was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1914, as one of 5 children born to Marian and Alexandra (Palaszewski) Wilamowski, both pious immigrants who belonged to Guardian Angels Parish. From there she entered the Felician Sisters in 1940, received the habit in 1941, and pronounced final vows in 1948.



Sister was very proud of the fact that her father came often to help on the Convent grounds in the early days after the Sisters arrived from McKeesport. He along with many others unnamed loving parents walked the Montour hill and made very many sacrifices to be of service to the Sisters.

Courses taken at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh led to a master's degree in Education preparing her for 35 years of teaching in the dioceses of Wheeling-Charleston, Altoona-Johnstown, Greensburg, Pittsburgh, and Steubenville, Ohio. For more than 30 years, Sister was devoted to pastoral ministry and teaching Christian Doctrine in the dioceses of Steubenville, Ohio and Greensburg, Pennsylvania. Sister also served as a chauffeur at St. Joseph Hall Infirmary for more than ten years.

Over many years, Sister Mary Presentatia suffered excruciating back pain that even affected her gait. Eventually this malady forced Sister to retire to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Convent in Coraopolis where she willingly assumed assigned duties and embraced the ministry of prayer.

Sister was as involved as she could be with every event that took place. She was a master at hospitality and warmly welcomed everyone who crossed her path. She especially was faithful to participating in the Intergenerational Days that were scheduled frequently to bring Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School Students together for some sharing and/or learning experience. She always looked forward to meeting with these students.

As her illness progressed Sister was confined to a wheelchair that she accepted peacefully. Sister Mary Presentatia was a living example of St. Paul's words "we are not discouraged, rather as our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day." The proof of those words was reflected in her contagious smile and her jovial disposition that made one enjoy her company so much.

Having suffered a fracture, Sister Mary Presentatia was transferred to St. Anne Home in Greensburg, Pennsylvania for extended care. The burden of her years could not support the therapy. She died peacefully in the presence of the Felician Sisters. She was expecting to come home to Coraopolis. Her beloved Spouse had other plans for her and escorted her to her heavenly home on a quiet Sunday afternoon.

May she rest in peace.