



Sister Virginia Wenzel (formerly Sister M. Blandina)

February 4, 1912 – September 29, 2011

When young Virginia Wenzel was in the eighth grade, she attended an profession ceremony of young women making their final vows with the Sisters of St. Francis in Millvale, Pa. This experience caused her to begin thinking about becoming a sister, too. She joined the preparatory class at Mount Alvernia the following year and eventually entered the community where she became known as Sister M. Blandina. Thus began a life of varied ministries that led her in different directions. For the first 35 years, she taught students in the grade and high schools in the Dioceses of Pittsburgh and Altoona-Johnstown. She also served as principal of St. Joseph High School in Mount Oliver, Pa. After studying library science, she served as librarian at Mount Alvernia High School in Millvale and at St. Francis Medical Center in Pittsburgh, Pa. To prepare for her next ministry, she took a correspondence course in medical records and for 15 years served as director of medical records at St. Francis Hospital of New Castle, Pa. During this time she also worked part time preparing laboratory and radiology reports to be distributed to physicians. Of all these ministries, Sister Virginia always said that she liked teaching best.

One of Sister's special causes was praying for and helping the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart. "Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place my trust in Thee" was one of her favorite prayers. Another favorite of hers was a poem, "What Is It All When All Is Told," which she always recalled when situations got difficult. When Sister Virginia came to Millvale in 2001 and joined the sisters in the prayer ministry, she could also give more time to some of her favorite past times – she enjoyed shopping with other sisters, reading good books, working puzzles and visiting her favorite restaurant, Eat 'n Park. May Sister Virginia now rest in the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in whom she placed all her hope.