



Dear Sisters,

Today, November 4, 2016, at 2:50 during the night, in the regional hospital of Olsztyn (Poland), the Lord called to eternal life our sister:

SR. M. KAZIMIERA - HALINA SZNURKOWSKA

born on November 5, 1938, in Topiłówka k. Augustowa (Poland).

Halina entered the Congregation at Częstochowa in via Kapucyńska, near the Sanctuary of Jasna Góra, on December 13, 1957, after completing her basic studies and technical school. In her request for admission, she wrote that she was “*motivated by the desire to serve God, to pray for the Glory of God, and to be near the throne of the Mother of God, Queen of Poland*”. The pastor wrote that Halina came from a practicing Catholic family. In fact, two other sisters followed her into the Congregation: Sr. M. Alojza and Sr. M. Teresa.

After Postulancy, Halina entered the Novitiate in Częstochowa on September 8, 1958. There she made her first religious profession on March 8, 1960 and then, on the same date, she made her perpetual profession in 1965.

In that period the Sister Disciples, with the collaboration of the only Polish Pauline priest at that time, Fr. Luigi Łabędź, bought four acres of land and the house of Grabówka. This was possible because the young Sr. M. Kazimiera had attended the technical school with a degree in agriculture. Thus she was able to bring to fruition her preparation to the benefit and the survival of the community whose agricultural activity was recognized by the State. In fact, after the Second World War, during the difficult period of Soviet Communism, the Sister Disciples were authorized to go to the market to sell their vegetables and, without authorization, also some rosaries or vestments that were embroidered in secret. The Madonna of Jasna Góra watched over them.

Among these courageous disciples who in faith and determination faced fear and risks, was also Sr. M. Kazimiera, the first Superior of the Divine Master house in Grabówka (1966-69). In the meantime, from October 1968 to February 1969, she attended a short course in nursing which enabled her to assist the pilgrims who arrived at the Sanctuary of Jasna Góra in the *Medical Station* that had been prepared for that purpose. She also did hand embroidery. She then went to Częstochowa in via Kapucyńska (1970-1972) and then returned to Grabówka (1972-1973).

Overcoming enormous difficulties, our Congregation in Poland continued to develop with the establishment of other houses. In 1973 Sr. M. Kazimiera was sent to Piastów for embroidery and other services. The new community was begun on December 7, 1971. In 1976 she returned to Częstochowa where she worked in the laundry and the souvenir shop at the service of the Marian sanctuary of Jasna Góra until 1979. Following the opening of the house in Łapy, in 1975 she was also in this house for a brief period. She was then transferred again to Piastów where she remained until 1995, fulfilling various ministries according to the needs of the house, of the apostolate and of the parochial church in Ursus.

Since May 1999, she was in Częstochowa, except for a short period in Lublin (2006) where she worked in the embroidery. The “Black Madonna” was for her, as for all the first sisters in Poland, the source of comfort and refuge. These last few years she always lived in the shadow of the

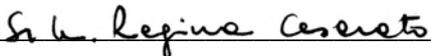
Marian sanctuary of Jasna Góra, where her vocation had its origin. Here she had met the two Sister Disciples who introduced her to the community: Sr. M. Jadwiga Wronska and Sr. M. Parvula Korzeb.

Last Monday, in good health and with a joyful heart, she was sent by the Provincial Superior to our community in Olsztyn, to assist her sister, Sr. M. Teresa, a member of that community. There she also found Sr. M. Parvula and together, on November 2, they went to the Cathedral for the Eucharistic Celebration, just as they had done many years before at their first meeting in 1957.

Yesterday, after feeling ill, she was admitted to intensive care in the regional hospital of Olsztyn where, during the night, due to internal bleeding, she went to meet her Spouse with her lamp shining brightly. She ended her earthly journey without disturbing anyone, as she had desired. The sisters from Poland testified that Sr. M. Kazimiera died as she lived. She was a person of few words and much work, humble and prayerful, timid and shy by nature. In her there was no hardness, but a fresh sense of humor and noble courage.

In God's mysterious plan, we discover in the parable of her life the sign of a fruitful life in the Spirit, especially in this Church of Olsztyn where on this coming November 26, with the intercession of Primo Maestro, Sr. M. Emilia Kąkol will make her perpetual profession. We hope for the gift of new and holy vocations.

Sr. M. Kazimiera, live in God and rest in peace. Pray for the sisters of the Province of Poland and for the entire Congregation journeying toward the 9th General Chapter.



Sr. M. Regina Cesarato, Superiora generale