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O B I T U A R Y

**Sister Philothea Larisch, OP**

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*"So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord." ~ 2 Corinthians 5:6-8*

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On March 16, after a long illness, Sister Philothea Larisch was called home to God. Sister was 83 years old and had dedicated 58 years to religious life.

Born in Berlin, Germany on March 20, 1932, Anneliese was the daughter of Anton and Frieda Doring Larisch. Her mother died young and, with the father unable to care for the children, Anneliese and her siblings were raised in an orphanage run by Sisters. During World War II, the children at the orphanage were forced by Hitler's soldiers to dig ditches as part of the war effort.

Through the Sisters at the orphanage, Anneliese met Mother Adelaide Schuerkamp and a friendship grew. Desiring to enter the Congregation, Anneliese immigrated to the United States in 1957. After her arrival, she spent some time living at Mary Immaculate Hospital and studying English. On September 6, 1958 she was admitted as a candidate and on August 5, 1959 she was invested in the habit and received her religious name, Philothea.



For almost three decades, Sister ministered as a Nurse's Aide at Our Lady of Consolation, Amityville; St. Rose, Melville; Villa Maria, Water Mill; and Queen of the Rosary Motherhouse. She is remembered as an excellent aide, often going above and beyond what she was assigned to do.

At one point in her years of ministry, Sister cared for the youngest children who boarded at St Joseph Mountain School in Monticello, NY.

For the past eight years, Sister was a patient at Maria Regina Residence in Brentwood and she was loved by all there. Philothea was gifted with a beautiful singing voice and Sister Marianne Miller recalls her lovely renditions of "Edelweiss" and "Stille Nacht." Our prayer now is that Sister Philothea may truly "sleep in heavenly peace."

Sister is survived by one niece in Germany; by her friends, Angela Siefert and Maureen Larisch; and by her Amityville Sisters. The Mass of Christian will be celebrated in St. Albert's Chapel on March 21, followed by internment in the Sisters' cemetery.

