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Sister Liguori Adler

This year which immediately precedes the Golden Jubilee year of our Community's establishment at Joliet, commits to our annals the death record of the one hundredth departed member, namely that of our beloved Sister Mary Alphonse Liguori Adler, who died on December 1, 1914, after a lingering and painful illness, in the 74th year of her age and the 46th of her religious career.

Sister Liguori entered as postulant on December 8, 1868 and was invested with the penitential garb of St. Francis on January 20, 1869. Her great attachment to her family, who resided in Joliet, prompted her to ask the Mother Superior, shortly after having been admitted as postulant, to send her to some mission house, in order to be more effectively weaned from the parental home, and also to escape the annoyance of the frequent visits from her numerous friends. She spent most of the short time of her postulancy at the mission house in Freeport, Illinois, where Sisters M. Alphonse Putz, Clara Schneider, and Francis Shanahan were stationed, the last named as Superior. On account of her former commodious life in the world, Sister Liguori's early days in the Convent demanded many sacrifices. They became intensified from year to year, owing to constitutional ailments, to which she was almost constantly subject, and to the effects of a sunstroke, which made her seek out a cool darkened room. This daily cross, which bore so heavily on Sister Liguori during her long sojourn of forty-seven years of Convent life, she carried with patient courage to the end of her days. Her physical condition often compelled her to seek permission to provide for her own singular diet and for the medicinal wants peculiar to her case. These not being always available when most needed, her sufferings were consequently much augmented. Thus it did not seldom happen that she literally suffered the pangs of hunger, because of the lack of nourishment which would agree with her constitution.

Far from being possessed of a selfish spirit, our dear Sister Liguori counted as nothing her own bodily infirmities to wait upon others in their distress and, if possible to alleviate their pains, nor did it matter whether calls on her charity came by day or by night, they were never made in vain. Indeed, many a Sister, in the dark hour of suffering, found in her a soothing angel. It may confidently be hoped that her all-around charity has obtained for her a rich return from Him Who has declared: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."

Sister M. Liguori, formerly Angela Josephine Adler, was born in 1840. Her parents were Michael Adler and Margaret Sebastian, both born and married at Barken, Canton Trier, Kreis Merzig, Rhenish Prussia. With two children they emigrated to America in the fall of 1837, leaving from Havre, France, on a sailing vessel. After a voyage of nearly four (?) months they landed in New York and sailed from thence up the Hudson River to Albany, then via the Erie Canal to Buffalo and by way of the Great Lakes to the little settlement of Chicago. There they secured an ox team and drove to Indiana, where

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they bought a tract of land for farming. In July, 1838, they moved to Will County, Illinois, and settled at Sagg's Bridge. In the spring of 1849 they purchased additional land at what is now the site of New Lenox, and four years later they settled on an improvised farm two miles south of Joliet. There they resided till 1868, when Mr. Michael Adler retired from farming and moved to town, where he died in 18 ; his wife died on Dec. 15, 1888. At that time Sister Ligouri became acquainted with our Sisters on Broadway and joined them at the end of the year, 1868. She taught school at Freeport, Aurora, Joliet, and Chicago, Illinois and in Wisconsin.