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SISTER BLANCHE, 87, FOUNDER OF OUR LADY OF MERCY IN GRANVILLE,
TAKEN IN DEATH

Sister M. Blanche, 87 year old founder of Our Lady, of Mercy School, Granville, has made her last rosary novena and crocheted her last Sacred Heart badge.

Death came Feb. 9 while she was at the motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate, Joliet, IL, where she began her religious life more than 70 years ago.

Sister Blanche who spent most of her last years before the Eucharist in the convent chapel at Granville praying for the conversion of Russia and for the intentions of friends and relatives, was buried last Friday following a Solemn Requiem Mass.

The celebrant was the Very Rev. Monsignor H.E. Mattingly, editor of the Columbus Register and pastor of St. Edward's, Granville. The Rev. Richard Crosser, pastor of Blessed Sacrament, Newark, was deacon.

Sister Blanche, who was energetic and witty to the end, returned to Joliet just three weeks prior to her death. Her health had not been too good, and she had had a heart attack recently.

She would have observed her 88th birthday March 24 and her 71st anniversary as a sister July 2.

* During her religious life she served as superior of all but two of the Congregation's missions and had been school supervisor as well as Procurator. She was first made a superior at the age of 23 in Rock Island, IL. (1884).

Sister Blanche started the school for handicapped girls at Granville in 1931 after the late Bishop James J. Hartley had asked the Sisters to establish this mission in the Columbus diocese.

After serving two three year terms as superior, she returned to Joliet. She spent some time in Cleveland also and then returned to Our Lady of Mercy school in 1944, where she stayed until a month ago.

During these years, she had no special duties, but she still kept herself busy. She took it upon herself to rise daily at 4:30AM and prepare the chapel for Mass. Then she roused the rest of the community.

She spent most of her mornings in the chapel, praying the rosary. She made one novena after another, 27 days of petition and 27 days of thanksgiving.

When she was not praying, she made Sacred Heart badges and crated eggs to be sold by the Sisters.

As her superior, Sister M. Marcellina said: "She was never idle a moment."

Sister Blanche protested violently last July when the Sisters celebrated the 70th anniversary of her profession, but submitted to the will of her superior and permitted what she called the "fuss". When asked if she like Our Lady of Mercy school, the best of all her missions, Sister Blanche would decline to say, but Sister Marcellina

*????See mission record!!!!

answered for her: "Don't let her tell you that she is not in love with this place. She is, and the reason is that we have the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the chapel. This is one of the few missions that has, and she spent most of her time before Him. For you, for me, for everyone." And Sister Marcellina would add now that she believes she is still doing it, only before Him in person; "for you, for me, for everyone!"

END OF COLUMBUS REGISTER ARTICLE

Helen Allonas, daughter of Joseph Allonas (Alsace-Lorraine) and Helena Oriente (New York City), was born in Canton, OH, on March 24, 1861. She entered from St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, on July 2, 1878, entered the novitiate as Sister Blance on January 14, 1879, made first vows on January 17, 1880, and final vows on August 12, 1883.

* Sister Blanche's mission record:

1880-1881	St. Michael, Sigel, IL	Grades 1,2,3	1
1881-1882	St. Bonaventure, Columbus NE	Grades 6,7,8	2
1882-1884	St. Nicholas, Zanésville, OH	Grades 2,3	3
1884-1886	Sts. Peter & Paul, Chicago, IL	Grades 5,6,7,8, Superior	(4)
1886-1891	St. Mary, Rock Island, IL	Grades 5,6,7,8 Superior	(5)
1891-1892	St. Francis Academy, Joliet	Grades 5,6	6
	St. Peter, Mansfield, OH	Grade 3	7
1892-1893	St. Mary, Columbus, OH	Grades 7,8	8
1893-1901	St. Peter, Mansfield, OH	Grades 7,8 Superior	Return
1901-1911	St. Dionysius, Hawthorne (Cicero)	Grades 5,6,7,8, Superior	(9)
1911-1914	St. Louis, Washburn, WI	Grades 7,8 Superior	10
1914-1916	St. Boniface, Chicago	Grade 8 (Superior 1920)	11 (Return 1920)
1916-1917	St. Dionysius, Hawthorne	Grades 7,8	Return
1917-1931	St. Francis Convent	School Supervisor, Procurator	(12)
1931-1937	Our Lady of Mercy, Granville	Superior and Principal	13
1937-1938	St. Francis Convent, Joliet		
1938-1940	St. Mary, Des Plaines	Superior and Principal	14
1940	St. Dionysius, Benton, MO	Substitute Grades 4,5,6	15
1940 Fall	St. Procop, Cleveland	Portress, Seamstress	16
1941-1944	St. Francis Convent, Joliet	Portress, Seamstress	Return
1944-1949	Our Lady of Mercy, Granville	Residence	Return

Sister Blanche is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Joliet, IL.