

SISTER M. LYDIA BEHRENDT

120. JUNE 27, 1919

Mary Behrendt, the daughter of George and Mary Groebner Behrendt, was born in Chicago, IL, on July 13, 1881. Her father was a foreman in a brass factory. Mary attended parochial and common schools. In 1899, she was admitted as a postulant. She stated that her motivation was to serve God in a better way than in the world. She became a novice, Sister Lydia, in 1900 and spent six years in temporary vows before professing final vows on August 15, 1908.

One of her contemporaries described her as: "a precise and efficient primary teacher, loved for her efforts. With dainty fingers and fast plied needle, Sister became a competent seamstress for the local mission in which she resided. Many a rip and tear disappeared under her neat darn or patch."

Sister Lydia was also known for her perfect care of the sanctuary and sacristy as she beautified the altars with meticulous arrangements of flowers.

Sister Lydia died of tuberculosis on June 27, 1919, at the Motherhouse in her 38nd year and the 20th year of her religious life. She was the natural sister of Sisters Zita and Humiliana. Her Franciscan priest brother, Father Emmanuel Behrendt, officiated at her funeral and burial.

Sister Lydia's Mission Record included:

- 1902-03 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL
- 1903-06 St. Joseph, Galion, OH
- 1906-10 St. Clement, Chicago, IL
- 1910-11 St. John the Baptist, Joliet, IL
- 1911-15 St. Louis, Washburn, WI
- 1915-19 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL