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308. Sister M. Leopoldine Becvar  
August 4, 1950

Sister M. Leopoldine Becvar

Sister M. Leopoldine, after a valiant two years at St. John's Sanitarium, Springfield, and continued bravery since her return home on June 8th, today succumbed to pulmonary tuberculosis at St. Joseph's Hospital. Sister had had to give up teaching in the spring of 1948, entering the Sanitarium on April 23rd of that year. After 18 months' combat against her disease and her own struggle against the mental disturbance resulting from her toxic condition, her tests were reported negative. Although she was still troubled with intestinal difficulties, she was in June released from the Sanitarium and brought to the third floor infirmary. The doctor's hope that her tubercular condition was well overcome was not substantiated, and she was soon transferred to the fourth floor porch. Becoming seriously ill on Monday, July 31st, she was taken to St. Joseph's Hospital. Her death occurred the following Friday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. Sister, a former Chicagoan, was in the 54th year of her life and the 33rd year of religion.

The funeral took place on Monday, August 7th. The Most Rev. Bishop McNamara presided at the Solemn Requiem Mass. The Franciscan Fathers were ministers of the Mass, Father Gervase Brinkman celebrating, and Fathers Alphonse Coan and Benedict Pfeifer acting as deacons. Attending the Bishop were the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Gregory Cloos of St. Anthony's, and Rev. Fabian Donlan, O. Carm., of St. Mary's parish, Joliet. Father Gervase led the prayers at the grave in Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Sister Leopoldine was a competent music teacher and organist; she also taught in the lower grades and in kindergarten. During her thirty years of active duty, her principal missions were St. Procop's, Cleveland, where she served ten years, and St. Ludmilla's, Chicago, eleven years. Her last three years in the classroom were spent at Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Chicago.

Sister Leopoldine was esteemed for her talent in music and for her gift in teaching smaller children. One of her former superiors described her as "apt at every kind of work and always willing for anything"; another said that she was "Lively as a cricket" and fun to be with; that as a younger Sister, her sunny disposition brightened mission life. Even when sickness had laid a sobering hand upon her, she still appreciated the little joke, the humorous situation. At the last, she smiled in the face of death. For her, supported as she was by a lively faith, there was no sting in his coming.