

May 17, 1914

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Sister Maura Blaha

On May 17, 1914, Sister M. Maura, formerly Mary Blaha of St. Procopius, Chicago, died at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Chicago, in the 31st year of her age and the 9th of her religious career. For some years she had been a great but patient sufferer. An operation was suggested to her at different times, to which she steadfastly refused to listen, saying that she had much faith in prayer, and through it she firmly hoped to obtain relief. Her prayers seemed to have been heard and her faith rewarded, for she was able to remain at her post in school longer than had been expected. But in the spring of 1914 her condition began to cause alarm. The attending physician advised, nay even urged an immediate operation. With all possible care and solicitude she was brought from Johnstown, Pennsylvania to St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Chicago, where the case was pronounced malignant. Still some hope was entertained that an operation might benefit her, and with Sister's consent it was performed; but alas! It proved futile, for Sister Maura departed this life the very next day.

She was a little, quiet, unobtrusive person, mindful of her duties only, very devout, as she had been already in her maiden days at home. According to the testimony of her early companions, she and an older sister, now Sister Nazaria, attended all devotions at their church, St. Procopius, Chicago, walking modestly along the street, each carrying a large prayerbook. At school they were models of attention, silence, and diligent study. Convent life was for them only a continuation in the practice of virtue. We may confidently hope that our Savior met His dear little spouse with a sweet welcome. Sister Maura was laid to rest in St. Adalbert's Cemetery, Chicago.