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Sister Lidwina Boehler

The last day of February, 1936 marked the burial day for the fifth member of the Community to be laid to rest in St. John's Cemetery, Joliet, during the first two months of 1936. Each of the Sisters who had died during this time had been sick for months, some of them for years. Sister M. Lidwina Boehler was the last of the five, her death occurring shortly after four o'clock on February 27. Just one week intervened since the death of Sister M. Ralph.

Sister Lidwina had been a patient in the infirmary since the early part of December. For several months previous she had been failing very noticeably in health and the Superiors were much concerned about her. She did not seem to realize her serious condition, and it took no little persuasion to have her see the doctor. Her work was in her mind. The habit of years was not easily put aside. During many of the fifty-two years of her convent life Sister Lidwina had been in charge of the laundry at the Motherhouse. Laundry day would find her there early in the morning and late afternoon or early evening would still find her taking care of the odds and ends of the "finishing up." No matter how tired she felt she did not stop until she was satisfied that all the work had been taken care of. Her example was an inspiration and stimulus to the various groups of postulants and novices who assisted with the laundry work year after year. Sister Lidwina was always solicitous to make the laundry work as easy as possible for these young religious. Many a little act of kindness was bestowed upon them, often under cover of urging them to work faster, or to take more interest in the work. These young religious greatly admired her sterling qualities. Her observance of poverty was admirable. It was edifying to see her after a laborious day in the laundry, kneeling in the chapel to say her Community prayers before going to rest. During the years when the hired men did not work in the laundry as they have been doing for some years, Sister Lidwina would rise very early to get in the morning's meditation and office before going down to start the machinery in the laundry.

At the time of her death Sister Lidwina was in the seventy-seventh year of her age and the the fifty-third of her religious life. Death resulted from cerebral sclerosis and general senile arterio sclerosis. The chaplain, Rev. Thomas Rust, O.F.M., was celebrant of the solemn Requiem Mass on February 29. The Rev. Angelus Zwiesler, O.F.M., was the deacon and the Rev. Matthias Hiti, assistant pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Joliet, was subdeacon.