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Sister M. Redempta Brausch

A second sudden call to eternity within a week occurred when Sister M. Redempta Brausch was seized with a coronary attack, followed by death in ten minutes. - Sister had made the visit to the Blessed Sacrament with the Community at 4:30, had spoken to Sister Electa, who brought her some apron materials, shortly before supper time. At 5:20 Sister Marjorie, hearing the sound of a fall, ran across the corridor to Sister's room and found her on the floor. She rushed to the Infirmary for help. The nurses hurriedly administered oxygen, the priest and doctor were called, but by 5:30 Sister had ceased to breathe. Father Gervase, arriving immediately after her death, anointed her. This was sister's third heart attack, the first having occurred in 1951 and the second in 1955.

Sister Redempta was the former Philomene Brausch of Chicago, daughter of Matthias and Anna Treiner Brausch. She was at the time of her death in the eighty-first year of her age and fifty-second of her religious life. She celebrated her Golden Jubilee last June.

Funeral services were held at the Motherhouse chapel on Thursday, November 20. The Most Rev. Martin D. McNamara presided at the Solemn Requiem Mass celebrated by Father Gervase. Burial was made at Mount Olivet Cemetery.

Sister's was a teaching career. With the exception of three years at St. Mary's, Columbus, her 44 years as a teacher were spent in Illinois. From 1916 to 1924 she was prefect and domestic science teacher at St. Francis Academy; and she taught for 22 years in Chicago - 16 years at St. Francis DeSales, three years at St. Francis Xavier, and three at St. Clement. Six of her twelve years in other Illinois cities were spent as superior and principal at Rock Island.

As teacher Sister Redempta showed a blend of effective qualities which contributed to her success. Blessed with basic common sense, she knew how to preserve good order in her classroom without rigidity and how to teach solid materials and maintain interest. Her classes knew she would require achievement, and they did not attempt to offer substitutes. At the Academy her domestic science groups learned more from her than merely cooking; she led them in the gracious art of home-making and was an example of kind womanliness. On one occasion they noted how she served coffee and doughnuts to terrazzo workers who were striving against time to repair defective flooring. Her classes enjoyed preparing occasional delicacies that she might pass on to the Sisters.

As prefect at the Academy, she had a real feeling of responsibility for the girls. She never left them alone, and was equal to all demands of supervision. She knew how to direct recreation as well as work and study, for her own social tendencies were well developed. Drama and movies were for her favorites in entertainment, and when "Hamlet" was produced she was content with nothing less than seven attendances.

Sister's teaching career closed with the heart attack of 1951, but her work did not stop with it. For three years she did fancy sewing for the pound parties at Guardian Angel Home. Overcoming the second heart attack of January 1955 which brought her home to the Infirmary,

she again took up sewing at the Motherhouse, and continued faithful to this work, though she was further handicapped after suffering a broken hip in August of that year.

Though Sister Redempta's death was sudden, it was not unprepared. Her morning Mass and Communion, her afternoon Visit and spiritual reading, her cheerful day's work were the daily "watchfulness" of a good religious. The very morning of her death Sister had remarked to Sister Marjorie that she had as a child been taught by her mother to say ejaculations, and that she now wove them through her entire day. "At each step I take, I say an ejaculation," she explained. - One cannot doubt that those last steps which ended in her fall were so accompanied and were her loving prayer in the hour of death.