

+
+
+ + + + +
+
+
+

Sister M. Catherine Carrigan

Death came suddenly to Corpus Christi Convent early Friday morning, September 9th, claiming, all unknown to her Sisters, their loved Sister Catherine. When the Sisters that morning assembled for prayer, Sister Catherine was not present. And when a little later she still had not arrived, Sister Venantia in concern went to her room to investigate. She was shocked to find Sister had passed away. A message, sent to the church where Father Kessler was vesting for Mass, brought him immediately, and he anointed Sister. The doctor, on his arrival, said death had occurred between 4:30 and 5:00 o'clock and had been caused by a heart attack.

Though Sister was known to be in impaired health, having suffered a heart attack last Christmas, she did not wish to give up her work in the classroom. Accordingly, she returned to her teaching in January and was this year again assigned to the fifth grade, as she desired.

School had opened for half-day sessions on September 7th, and Sister had taught the two mornings. The heat was intense and she had admitted that she was tired, but Thursday evening she remarked that she felt better than she had all week. No one was prepared for the sudden development the next morning.

Though Sister was to be buried in Joliet, a Solemn Requiem was arranged at Corpus Christi for Saturday morning, at which Father Kessler was the celebrant and Father James Geiger and Father Joseph Stanton were deacon and subdeacon. Some 45 Sisters missioned in Columbus sang the Requiem.

At the Motherhouse ceremonies, Bishop Martin D. McNamara presided, assisted by Father Walter Mayer of St. Raymond's, Father John P. Driscoll of St. Anne's, and Father John Doyle of St. Paul's. Father Angelo Zwiesler was celebrant of the Mass, and Fathers Ermin Micka and Alphonse Coan were the deacon and subdeacon.

Sister Catherine, the former Margaret Carrigan of Mansfield, Ohio, entered the convent in December, 1904, and celebrated the golden jubilee of her profession in 1957. Her teaching career extended through 54 purposeful years. of these, 38 were spent in the Archdiocese of Chicago, her chief placements there being at Sacred Heart school, Hubbard Woods, 17 years; and at St. Francis DeSales, Ss. Peter and Paul, and St. Pascal schools, where she served for nine, five, and three years respectively. She also devoted nine years to the Community's Indian mission schools at Red Cliff, Bayfield, and Washburn. Her last five years were at Corpus Christi.

Wherever Sister Catherine was stationed, she met with the same fond appreciation, for always she was the same lovable Sister, teacher, friend. As a religious, she illustrated the "pax et bonum" of the Franciscan way of life. Calm was her heart; peaceful and prayerful were her days. - An excellent teacher, Sister never lost her enthusiasm for the classroom. She organized her work well and made clear presentations of her material. She had the patience to drill, the patience to train children to do neat work and submit only acceptable tasks. She showed a persevering faithfulness to duty. No minor illness could

2.

keep her from class, and no severer illness could take her away long-- the "call of the children" was too strong. On one occasion, suffering a broken leg, she waited only to have the limb set, and then returned to school on crutches.

Sister Catherine was blessed with the grace of friendship to a marked degree. A gracious, refined personality, she combined dignity and courtesy in her relations with others. Cordial to all, she was alert to everyone's needs, and met social demands with an easy poise. Her Sisters invariably paid tribute to her charity, her willingness "to do anything for anyone." -- Here, surely, was evidence of God's plenty in grace, and evidence of her co-operation. Here, too, was rich promise of glory and eternal peace. - May these be hers!