

**SISTER M. BIBIANA, O.S.F.**  
**July 24, 1964**

She was to have celebrated her Golden Jubilee next year, and it was the one thing she wanted above everything else. When she said goodbye to Sister Leo, her classmate, last August, she begged her to pray every day with her children that, "I'll live for my Golden Jubilee." And up until a month ago, she never quite lost the hope that she would make it.

But then, as her health continued to fail, Sister Bibiana accepted the inevitable: she wouldn't be with her Jubilee Class next June. And as intensely as she had wanted to live, she now wanted to die. It was an eagerness in which there was no trace of bitterness or despair. Sister Bibiana was ready now to "go home."

She had suffered intensely since coming to the Infirmary in November. A February surgery was cancelled because of her precarious physical condition, and she returned to OLA from the hospital knowing that, for the time being, at least, there was nothing to be done.

That time lengthened into months and reached a climax on July 19th when late in the afternoon she went into the coma from which she never recovered. Joliet's weather soared through the 90s -- and Sister Bibiana's temperature hovered between 103 and 105, but there was no indication of distress -- she seemed not even to have a fever. To a casual visitor she might have appeared only to be sleeping.

But there were no "casual visitors." Everyone at OLA knew that Sister Bibiana was critical; everyone came with rosaries; everyone came to pray. And on Wednesday, Sister Corona, confident that Sister was "going to heaven today," came to her room and with perfect pitch sang the "Ave Maria" for an entrance song.

She was a little premature. It was Friday night, just twenty minutes short of Saturday, when Sister Bibiana slipped away to join Sister Jeanette who had preceded her just ten hours before.

Sister Bibiana won't be with her class when they renew the Profession of their Golden Years next June. She won't be there to hear the solemn promise attached to those vows. For her, promise has become fulfillment -- and Jubilee has already begun in "life everlasting."

**GOD GRANT HER REST ETERNAL!**

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