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Sister M. Rose Dlouhy

Our venerable Sister Rose has gone to her eternal rest. After a long and painful illness she quietly answered death's summons on Monday morning, April 17, 1961, at 4:45. The Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated in the Motherhouse chapel on Wednesday by her grandnephew, the Rev. Maur Dlouhy, O.S.B., at St. Procopius Abbey at Lisle, Illinois. He also officiated at the grave in Resurrection Cemetery, assisted by Father Angelo Zwiesler, O.F.M., and Father Clement Sober, O.S.B.

Having retired in 1946, Sister Rose had spent the last ten years at the Motherhouse. Due to a heart condition and various other ailments, she was in and out of the infirmary repeatedly and was anointed six times. In October, 1960, a stroke caused partial loss of speech, and Sister was unable to receive Holy Communion until just before Christmas. But no real improvement could follow this alleviation. The immediate cause of Sister's death was internal carcinoma, with contributing hypertension and myocarditis.

In her ninetieth year at the time of her death and the seventy-fourth of her religious life, Sister Rose, the former Julia Dlouhy of Chicago, had been teacher and administrator for fifty-seven years. All but eight of these were spent in Chicago, where she served at six different schools: St. Wenceslas for 13 years; St. Vitus for two years; and Ss. Cyril and Methodius, where she was superior and principal for four years. For eight years Sister Rose was stationed at St. Procopius, her home parish, being superior and principal there for six of these years. She also taught five years at St. Ludmilla and was later in residence there four additional years. The summer of 1946 marked the completion of 18 years spent at Assumption as superior and principal. The eight years spent elsewhere found Sister at St. Procop's, Cleveland; St. Stephen, Streator; and St. Stephen, Johnstown.

Sister Rose was an excellent teacher and a capable administrator. As principal, she was instrumental in getting recognition for three of the Chicago schools she directed, so that the pupils no longer needed to take high school entrance examinations. Literarily inclined, she often contributed articles to the Narod, a Catholic Bohemian daily (later a weekly) published at St. Procopius, Lisle. In the early days of radio, she was an advocate of Czech programs for school children, and herself wrote the skits for the various schools which our Sisters conducted. Her friendly letters were a joy to receive, and to time of her final sickness, she attended to her own correspondence.

As a superior, Sister Rose was kind to the Sisters, good to the people, and very generous to the Benedictine Fathers and Brothers. Many Sisters stated she was especially kind to anyone in affliction, as they themselves had experienced. She was all charity in her approach to individuals, and she would not tolerate an unkind word in those about her. Her reverence for priests was well known, in a number of instances she shielded priestly reputations. To the people she would say, "uphold your priests. God will bless you." When on Saturday before her death, Monsignor Rondzik of Chicago came to visit her and give her his blessing, he said, "I shall never be able to repay Sister Rose for the help she gave my brother at Annunciation." No mother, he added, could have been kinder, could have done more to help him overcome his difficul-

ties and to persuade his people to remain loyal. The following week the grateful Monsignor returned and, kneeling at Sister's coffin, he prayed the rosary for her.

Sister Rose had, after her retirement, spent many hours in chapel. Her devotions were long and fervent. During her illness in the infirmary, though anxious at first, she in time gained confidence and put her trust in God. Her rosary was her constant companion; next in importance was her devotion to the Passion, and she would repeat over and over St. Francis' words, "We adore Thee, O Lord, and bless Thee because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world." She would also ask the Sisters to pray this for her. It was edifying to hear her say the Angelus, and often she recited, "Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like unto Thine." - Her humility was apparent in her gratitude for any visit, for any slight attention. Between patient and nurse there was good rapport, and Sister Rose's name for Sister William was always "my good mother."

Long and well had Sister Rose served God and her Community; long and patiently did she suffer. She had often hoped 'to have her purgatory on earth.' Surely, when she was called from us, it was to join in the glad Alleluja's praising her risen Lord and Savior. May this joy be hers!