

22. Sister Zitta Eck
December 7, 1886

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Sister Zitta Eck

On December 7, 1886, Sister M. Zitta, formerly Magdalen Eck of New Hamburg, Missouri, died of dropsy and heart disease at the Motherhouse in Joliet in the thirty-seventh year of her age and the twelfth of her religious life after an illness of about eighteen months. She had for several years been employed in household work, then, in 1881 she was appointed the first regular infirmarian at the Motherhouse. Her life in the convent, shortly after being invested with the holy habit, was one of almost continual suffering from inflammatory rheumatism, which crippled her hands so badly that she could not use them at times. Being herself an invalid and probably more entitled to a nurse's care than those on whom she attended, she nevertheless went about her daily occupation with an energetic will, though hardly able to do justice to the requirements of those entrusted to her. This condition frequently gave rise to discontent among her patients who evidently did not realize their nurse's helpless situation when suffering under the pressure of her own infirmities. Indeed, all who knew Sister Zitta must acknowledge that she was a hardworking and self sacrificing religious, and it may be hoped that the good God, who was the secret observer of her intentions kept a faithful record of her deeds of kindness and charity and has rewarded her accordingly.

On her death-bed she thanked a certain Sister who had interceded for her when she was still a novice and about to be dismissed from the Community on account of ill health.