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Sister M. Lourdine Essner

After a lingering illness of almost twelve years, death came as a release for Sister M. Lourdine. With utmost patience she had waited for it through the years. She had received the Last Sacraments the preceding day, and knowing that her hour was near, she yearned that it might "be swift." She was conscious almost to the end.

Sister M. Lourdine was the former Crescence Essner of St. Denis, Benton, Missouri. She died in the Motherhouse Infirmary on Thursday, June 25, at 3:25 in the morning. She was in the sixty-fifth year of her age and had been in religion thirty years. - Funeral services were held Saturday, June 27 in the Convent Chapel, Father Gervase Brinkman celebrating the Solemn Requiem Mass. - Burial was made in the new Resurrection Cemetery, Lockport Township near Romeoville-- the first grave on the Community's new burial plot. Father Gervase officiated at the grave, assisted by Father Aloys Sinsky.

Honorary pallbearers were six cousins of the deceased, all members of our Community: Sisters M. Rosabel and Angelica LeGrand, Sister Zita Diebold, Sister Crescentia LeGrand, Sister Georgianne Vetter, and Sister Rosalie Meyer. - Sister Lourdine is survived by her eldest sister in the Community - Sister M. Angeline.

During Sister Lourdine's active years she was engaged in domestic work. Her first year professed was spent at the Motherhouse, where she was appointed to the Kitchen and Bakery. Then from 1931 to 1948 she was stationed at Our Lady of Mercy, Granville. Here her work in the kitchen provided meals for a group of handicapped children classified as 'retarded.' Both they and their Sister teachers enjoyed the kindly services of the good cook.

Being unable in March of 1948 to continue the heavy work at Granville because of a puzzling weakness in her legs, Sister was brought to the Motherhouse Infirmary a victim, as it developed, of mutiple sclerosis. In spite of medication, careful nursing, and attempted therapy, Sister's condition grew worse. From a walking chair she was reduced to a wheel chair, and finally became absolutely helpless, dependent in everything. It was only with the aid of a lift that she could be placed in her wheel chair, and could thus attend Sunday Mass or make a Holy Hour on Thursdays.

But as her paralyzed body weakened, her soul grew ever stronger. Her patient resignation and indomitable cheer were the wonder of all. Prayer and sacrifice became her mission--her particular work for the community. And with intense zeal and fervor she applied herself to it. The Sisters soon recognized this. With great faith in her prayers they begged her intercession in their many needs. No problem was ever too grave for her trusting faith; none ever too slight for her compassionate love--all were included in her selfless pleading.

Now that Sister Lourdine is in eternity, the Sisters are confident her intercession will be all the more powerful. And though they pray for her with the customary "May she rest in peace," they are convinced their plea is already answered - that peace and rest with God are hers, but also glorious activity; for surely, being "delivered from the bonds

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of mortality," she "walks before the Lord in the land of the living."