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Sister Ladislas Foenkohl

On October 30, 1912, Sister M. Ladislas, formerly Caroline Foenkohl of Pfetretz, Poland, was killed instantly by a fall into the elevator shaft in the convent at Joliet. Sister Ladislas had returned just a few hours before from a six months sojourn at Saint Peter and Paul missionhouse, South Chicago. Having been for some time previous a daily communicant, she had also received Holy Communion on the morning of this fatal day, and every moment of her homeward trip had been given to prayer.

Later in the day it was discovered that the Sister was absent from the exercises of the Community and on the day following, when she again failed to appear, a search for her was instituted and finally, to the consternation of all, her remains were found in the bottom of the elevator shaft. The details of the accident or how it was brought about will always remain a mystery.

Sister Ladislas spent the greater part of her religious career in performing domestic work. Having become enfeebled by age, she spent the last years of her life in making and repairing altar linens, church vestments, and the like. Her aptitude in this line of work as well as her jovial disposition always insured a welcome for her in any of the mission houses.

In her own special way she also was a devout religious, ever prompt and faithful in attending the prescribed exercises of the Community and on this her last day of life, these duties had all been attended to, her extra little acts of piety included. In fact, the last place in which she was seen was the convent chapel, where she had assisted at the recitation of the Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary. At the time of her death she was in the 75th year of her age and the 38th of her religious life.