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323. Sister Carmel Hanafin  
November 21, 1953

### Sister Carmel Hanafin

With only a twelve-hour interim following Sister Martha's passing, death claimed even more suddenly another of our jubilarians, Sister M. Carmel Hanafin, stationed at St. Boniface mission, Chicago. Sister attended morning prayer as usual that Saturday, but during meditation was seized with a weak spell due to a heart condition. She was promptly put to bed, but it was soon clear that she was critically ill. The rectory was notified, and Father Wronka anointed her during the eight o'clock Mass; at about nine o'clock, Father Rokicinski brought her Holy Viaticum, and she received devoutly and happily. The Sisters tried desperately to contact doctors but were not successful in locating one who could make an emergency call, and none of them arrived in time. Sister lapsed in to unconsciousness shortly after she had received Holy Viaticum, and she passed away quietly at 11:50 a.m.

Mr. Dames was given charge and he called for the body about one o'clock, bringing it to Joliet. The Convent that week-end had a double wake, Sister Martha and Sister Carmel both lying in state in the parlor.

Sister Carmel, eighty-seven years of age, had spent sixty-four years in religion. For sixty-three years she had been music teacher and organist, and for thirty of these years she had also taught in the grades. Twenty-seven years of her career she spent at St. Boniface, Chicago, where she died; and nine years at St. Procopius, Chicago. She was also stationed at Mansfield and Galion, Ohio; at Pesotum and Joliet, Illinois; and at Washburn, Wisconsin.

Everywhere she was noted for kindness, her willingness to help wherever something needed doing. Patience in the classroom was one of her outstanding virtues, and her impartiality was noteworthy. She never seemed to single out a child for praise or blame. She seemed to love them all--and they loved her in return. The night before the funeral a group of boys and young men from St. Boniface came to see her. "Sister Carmel liked us." was their humble yet proud boast as they made clear that they had not found everyone in life so kindly disposed.

Sister Carmel also enjoyed the companionship of her Sisters. She was congenial to all and would enter into a pleasant conversation with any one of them; no one could be ill at ease with Sister Carmel, and a first acquaintance soon became a fast friend. As one Sister put it, "She will fit well into the friendly circles of Heaven."