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Sister M. Eulogia Horning

With the passing of Sister M. Eulogia Horning on Thursday evening, December 17, at 6:20 o'clock, the Community lost its Vicareess and First Councillor. As Mother Immaculate's letter to the missions put it, "Three and a half years of prayers and hopes closed as the Angel of Death silently yet sweetly led our beloved Sister Eulogia to God's Throne to be our intercessor there."

True, there were three and a half years of hopes and prayers, for it was on July 10 that Sister's illness began in earnest when, following the general elections, she collapsed. This was after months of dizziness, double vision, and unconquerable fatigue - these preceded by years of frequent violent headaches. A devious case history ensued: St. Joseph's Hospital and a diagnosis of encephalitis; Mercy Hospital, Chicago, where Dr. Harold Voris' verdict was brain tumor; futil basal craniotomy followed by palliative frontal craniotomy and x-ray treatments; sufficient improvement to permit return to our infirmary in September; by Christmas with the aid of a wheel chair assuming some desk duty; relapses and further x-ray treatments in the spring of both 1951 and 1952; in February of 1953 again to Mercy Hospital for a third craniotomy.

This time the tumor was discovered - deep in the life-centers of the brain. Removal was out of the question, and so was recovery. For ten months Sister lingered, helpless - unable to speak, to move. The Sisters marveled - never had any seen so complete a stripping, so absolute a victim. Throughout the time of her illness, hers had been a perfect abandonment, and unalterable patience and resignation. Always her watchword was, "We want what God wants." And the last ten helpless months were the culmination of the work God had earlier begun in her. Surely, her going forth, "with eyes upon the eternal was a going Home. Her captive spirit soared, and death was swallowed up in victory."

Funeral services were held in the Motherhouse chapel Monday, December 21, beginning with the Office of the Dead recited by the Community. His Excellency, the Most Rev. Martin D. McNamara, presided at the Solemn Requiem Mass and gave the last Absolution. Rev. Gervase Brinkman, OFM was celebrant of the Mass; Rev. Wilfred Cool, OFM, and Rev. Alphonse Coan, OFM, were deacon and subdeacon. The Chaplains to the Bishop were Rev. Roger Troy, O. Carm., and Rev. Lloyd Bowden. Rev. Thomas B. O'Keefe was master of ceremonies. Interment was made at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Joliet, Father Gervase officiating at the grave.

Sister Eulogia was the former Anna Horning of Crestline, Ohio. She entered the convent on December 8, 1914. At the time of her death she was fifty-five years old and had worn the habit thirty-eight years.

Sister's first teaching was done at St. Mary's High school -- and emergency appointment as a novice. Her first year professed she spent at St. John's Joliet, and the following ten years she taught st St. Mary's High, Columbus; at St. Francis Academy; and in the high school department of the Convent Normal School.

The rest of her teaching years, from 1928 to 1950, were in the College. The first two years of this time were again in the Convent Normal department. After spending two years at Catholic University and receiving her doctor of philosophy degree, Sister was appointed to the chairmanship of the English Department in the College, a position which she filled from 1932 to 1944. From 1934 to 1945 Sister was dean of the College. In 1944 she was elected to the General Council of the Congregation and in 1950 was elected Vicarress.

Of outstanding ability, Sister Eulogia had a tremendous capacity for work, and she achieved with a steady, quiet drive whatever she undertook. It was during her deanship that the College for the first time merited an A rating by the University of Illinois. It was also during her administration that the College obtained accreditation with the North Central Association in 1938 and affiliation with the Catholic University in 1942. As chairman of the English Department she launched both Mary's Book and Burnished Gold, publications which she planned should appear in alternate years. Throughout, her leadership was an inspiration and a challenge to faculty and students alike.

As Councillor, in addition to central administration Sister Eulogia continued a part-time teaching load in English and Education at the College. She directed the redecoration of the Motherhouse Chapel, and the publication of new editions of the Community Manual of Prayers, the Ceremonial, and the Book of Customs, as well as the preparation of Vocational material for the Convent and Preparatory. Though her years were, humanly speaking, far from full in number, there was nothing lacking in her labors.

The Interlude, published in tribute to Sister Eulogia by the College, reviews the different phases of her life, her work, and her character as seen by both Sisters and students. Everywhere she left her mark, everywhere she had exerted an ennobling influence. Former students gave salient comments in Alumnotes. One said, "Alumnae who were in her classes probably remember her best. A brilliant teacher, her quiet sense of humor made even a dull subject a joy to learn." Another wrote, "Surely and instinctively she brought out the best in everyone, and those lives she touched will be the better for having known her."

But perhaps the finest tribute paid her came from the Very Rev. Eligius Weir, provincial of the Friars Minor of the Sacred Heart, in a letter to Mother Immaculate: "My hope is that she will be the first of your Congregation to receive the honors of the altar." The significance of this hope lies not in its realization, but in the quality to which it gives testimony --- her sanctity, the holiness of her life. May the glory of eternal light shine upon her.