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331. Sister M. Lucinda Hudachko  
September 4, 1954

Sister M. Lucinda Hudachko

Another golden jubilarian has passed to her reward, Sister M. Lucinda Hudachko, who died at eleven o'clock Saturday night, September 4, in the Motherhouse infirmary. The former Anna Hudachko, Sister had entered the convent from St. Stephen, Streator; she was now seventy-two years of age and had been in religion fifty-six years.

Sister had been taken ill eight days earlier and was admitted to the infirmary. The doctor's diagnosis was cerebral hemorrhage. Sister had just this summer made a deferred jubilee trip to California to see relatives. She had had a similar but slight attack enroute, but thought little of it. This time, however, her condition was grave, and she was anointed on Thursday, September 2, by Father Gervase.

On Saturday morning as Sister Constance prepared her for Communion, she reminded Sister Lucinda that this was First Saturday. Sister replied, "Yes, I will make my communion of reparation." Sister failed rapidly through the day, and that communion was her Viaticum.

Informed of the death, Sister Lucinda's relatives were urgent in their request that she be buried at Streator, her former home and the scene of her labors for many years. The request was granted, and she lay in state at the Motherhouse from September 5 to 7, with Mr. Fred C. Dames in charge. On the morning of the seventh at eleven o'clock she was taken to Streator. Her nephew, John Hudachko, funeral director of Streator, had charge of the trip and final arrangements. Rev. Mother Immaculate, Sister Rachel and Sister Stella accompanied the body.

At Streator the body was first taken to the Hudachko Funeral Parlor, and at 1:30 was removed to St. Stephen Church to lie in state there. As the body was taken up the aisle, the church bell tolled and the Sisters sang the Miserere. They then recited the Office of the Dead, and for the rest of the afternoon, two Sisters kept prayer hour. In the evening Rev. Francis Dauss, assistant at St. Stephen's, led the rosary. All the Sisters attended. After the services the women of the parish prayed the rosary in Slovak, alternating with prayer hours until morning.

The Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated at ten o'clock on Wednesday, September 8, by Rev. George Dzurko, pastor of St. Stephen's. Rev. Cyprian Berens, OFM, from St. Anthony's was deacon, and Rev. Joseph Prokuski of St. Stephen's was subdeacon. Rev. Francis Dauss was master of ceremonies. Six other priests were present for the Mass. The parish adult choir sang.

All the priests present for the Mass went to the cemetery--Our Lady of Sorrows, the new St. Stephen's Cemetery, Streator. They sang the "Benedictus" at the grave.

Twenty-three Sisters of the Community attended the funeral, including Rev. Mother M. Immaculate, Sister Edith, Sister Eulalia and Sister M. Stella of the Motherhouse; and Sisters Gabriella, Honorata, Marian, Sebastian, Nicolette, Sidonia, Ralph, Raineldis, Barbara Jean and Emily Clare of Streator.

Sister Lucinda had devoted her life to music, and was a successful music teacher and organist. Already as a postulant she was appointed to this work on mission, and throughout her career she gave it loving and faithful service. Most of her religious life was spent at only two missions: St. Stephen's, Johnstown, where she served for twenty-six years, eight of which she was also superior and principal; and her own home parish, St. Stephen's, Streator, where she spent twenty-two years, twelve of which she was also superior and principal. Five of her last six years on mission were spent at St. Mary's, Green Creek, still as music teacher and organist--efficient, in spite of her declining years, loving and beloved. Her choir here wished to claim the organist's hymnal Sister had laboriously penned through the years, but it was thought better to keep this helpful book in the Community. Sister herself had once remarked that some other Sister would find it convenient to have when she was no longer here to use it.

This little detail was characteristic. Sister lived and worked and planned for the Community. Its progress and welfare were matters of real concern to her, and were worth a sacrifice. Sister had often found situations challenging, but had brought courage and firmness to their solution. Her first appointment as postulant, successfully carried through when she was scarcely sixteen years old, illustrates the point. Then and later she proved sufficiently tempered to withstand strain. She had lived through the 1936 Johnstown flood, and lived and relived it years later, playing the music of it with particularly vivid effect.

As in Sister's earthly days, the stress over, quiet always returned, so now we may hope the music of Heaven is for her Peace Eternal.