

31. Sister Amata Hutsch
August 3, 1892

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Sister Amata Hutsch

The following death record affords a most touching, as well as a most edifying spectacle, namely that of a youthful religious suddenly and unexpectedly snatched away from the midst of a happy band of novices of which she was a member. It presents to us the beloved Sister Amata Hutsch, whose parental home was in St. Louis.

This novice had been employed during the second year of her religious life in teaching at St. Boniface School, Chicago. While there she had several attacks of what the physicians called cholera morbus. Two days preceding the Feast of Portiuncula, when on her vacation at the Motherhouse in Joliet, she was again seized with one of these spells. A physician was called in and he pronounced it to be acute appendicitis. Her condition was critical and she was too weak to undergo an operation. After spending the night in agonizing pain she became calmer towards morning and hopes were entertained for her recovery. The physician felt satisfied that the patient's condition had much improved; but when he called again in the afternoon he found a great change. Heart failure had set in and it was evident that the sister could not survive many hours. The Father confessor was summoned at once. It now devolved upon the Mother Superior to apprise her child of her approaching end. Of this duty the kindhearted mother acquitted herself with that wonted gentleness and delicacy of expression which was so characteristic of her maternal heart, that the breaking of the seemingly appalling news came to the patient's ear rather as an event joyfully anticipated, than a thing to be regretted. The Mother Superior had told her that after receiving the last rites of Holy Mother Church the exceedingly great favor would be hers to pronounce her religious vows on her death bed, by which solemn act she could gain a plenary indulgence, thus entitling her to immediate entrance into heaven.

Upon hearing this the good Sister seemed transformed into an angel. All bodily pains were forgotten. Only one thought occupied the young Sister's mind - her preparation for eternity and the happiness of being soon united to her Divine Spouse. The Father confessor arriving, in one brief hour the ceremonies were over. Fully conscious of the seriousness of these last transactions and perfectly resigned to God's Holy Will, this guileless bride of Christ breathed forth her soul to receive its eternal reward. She died on August 3, 1892, in the twenty-first year of her age and the third of her religious life.