



Sister Basilla Kearns

Sister M. Basilla Kearns, formerly Johanna Kearns, was born in Delaware, Ohio on July 22, 1856. Her parents, Peter Kearns and Margaret Foley, were both born in Ireland.

Sister Basilla left her parental home when she was twenty-two years old and entered our Congregation on June 15, 1878.

On January 14, 1879 she was invested with the holy habit. She made her first vows on January 17, 1880 and her perpetual vows on August 9, 1884.

The long years spent on the various missions and the fourteen years spent as Superior at St. Wenceslas, Chicago, gained for her not only from the children and the Sisters in her charge, but from the entire parish as well, the deep and sincere affection that only a genuine kind and sympathetic heart could elicit. But perhaps the noblest years of an already noble life, were the last three, spent in failing health but with high courage and a persevering spirit, among the Mexican children at our foreign mission in Chicago.

Unable to continue longer in actual service in the classroom with her beloved children, her last year was spent at the Motherhouse in the quiet service she knew so well to render, and in anticipation of her Golden Jubilee.

Sweet and patient to the last she endured her lingering infirmity. The angel of death called her to her reward on October 8, 1929, at 10:55 P.M. in the 74th year of her age and the 51st of her religious life. Her death was caused by Chronic Myocarditis. The funeral took place Friday, October 11, from the Convent Chapel where a solemn High Mass was offered for the repose of her soul. Rev. Louis Johantges, O.F.M., was celebrant, Rev. Claude Rust, O.F.M., assisted as deacon and Rev. Anthony Wagner as subdeacon.

A class of children from St. Wenceslas Parish was present at the funeral services. Sister M. Augustine Werkmann and Sister M. Adalgundis Auch from St. Francis Assisi, Chicago, accompanied the children to Joliet.