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Sister M. Arnoldine Kendera

On Thursday, August 30, at about 1:30 p.m., our Sister M. Arnoldine went to God. Although it was well known that her health was frail, her death was sudden and unexpected. It occurred at Sacred Heart Convent, Huron Street, Chicago.

The former Anna Kendera of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, Sister M. Arnoldine was at the time of her death in her forty-second year and in the twenty-sixth of her religious life. She was never considered very robust, but she performed the work of the classroom without interruption until the year before last when it became necessary to bring her from Assumption, Chicago, to the Motherhouse infirmary for rest and treatment for acute anemia and rheumatic heart disease. Sister slowly improved and last year took over third and fourth grades at Guardian Angel Home. She rested through the summer at St. Joseph's, Joliet, and in August was considered well enough for appointment to Sacred Heart, Huron Street, Chicago.

Sister was very happy to be assigned to that mission, and had the last few days been preparing her classroom for the opening of school. Her schedule called for a rest period after dinner, but Thursday at lunch she remarked that she felt so well she would rather go back to the classroom than rest. Sister Clarine, however, suggested that she remain for her siesta first. When later she did not appear, the Sisters returned to the convent to find what was detaining her. They found her in the lavatory slumped against the wall - lifeless.

Msgr. Blahunka, pastor, was called, and he anointed her, said the prayers for the dying, and led the rosary. The assistant priest and the Sisters responded. Monsignor spoke consolingly to the Sisters, saying "She was so good a Sister, you need have no fears for her soul. She is safe."

The Most Rev. Martin D. McNamara presided at the Solemn Requiem Mass celebrated by Rev. Gervase Brinkman, OFM, on Tuesday, September 4. Rt. Rev. Msgr. Victor Blahunka was assistant at the throne, and Rev. Anthony Chisek, also of Sacred Heart Church, was one of the chaplains. They both assisted Father Gervase in the ceremonies at the graveside in Mount Olivet Cemetery.

Of Sister Arnoldine's twenty-three years in the classroom, besides Assumption and Guardian Angel Home already mentioned, she spent twelve years at St. Stephen, Streator; eight years at St. Stephen, Johnstown; and one year at St. Francis Assisi, Chicago. Her classes ranged from the second to the fifth grade.

Sisters' work in the classroom was remarkable for her quiet presentation and her calm demeanor. These enabled her to handle large and lively classes without suppressing them. Her pupils were responsive and alert, and a visitor to her class was certain to enjoy the atmosphere. Neat and precise herself, she taught her classes neatness and precision in all their tasks. They seemed to take from her, too, a certain quiet courtesy which characterized her.

In summary it could be said that Sister was faithful to all obligations, both in her religious life and in her school work. In her relations with her Sisters she was at first shy and retiring. On closer acquaintance, however, her shyness turned to whimsy; her reserve, to unassuming friendship. And always she was simple, sincere, kind. Heaven's gates swing readily for such souls.