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Sister M. Eulalia Koenig

Sister M. Eulalia Koenig slipped quietly away to God on Friday evening, August 23, 1957, at 6:05 o'clock. Sister had had a routine day in the Infirmary - she sat up as usual, took care of such matters as brushing her teeth, and gave no intimation of any trouble. At 5:40, however, the patients heard her breathing oddly, and when Sister Constance returned from supper, she saw that Sister had suffered another cerebral hemorrhage. Sister Constance called for a priest and Father Garcias responded at once, but before he arrived Sister had passed away. He gave her Extreme Unction, using the short formula. Sister had, however, been anointed several times during her last stay in the Infirmary--after her admission in December of 1955, again on September 20, 1956 after she had had a fall from her wheel chair; and again on March 14 of this year, when she became mentally confused after a stroke.

Sister Eulalia was the former Clara Koenig of Chicago, daughter of Joseph and Mary Fabian Koenig. She entered the Community June 6, 1893, and had just celebrated her Diamond Jubilee this past June. She was 77 years of age and had spent 62 years in religion.

Funeral services were held in the Convent chapel on Monday, August 26, her nephew, the Very Rev. Walter F. Liesch of Alexandria, South Dakota, celebrating the Solemn Requiem Mass and officiating at the graveside in Mount Olivet Cemetery.

Most of Sister Eulalia's long music career was spent in Joliet--twelve years at St. Francis Academy, thirteen at St. Francis Convent, and thirteen at the College of St. Francis. She served as chairman of the College Music Department for seven years, and from 1925 to 1938 she directed the Novitiate Choir. Nine additional years as organist in Chicago and elsewhere completed her music record. In 1938 she was appointed Mistress of Novices at the Convent, a position which held for six years. Since 1950 Sister has been stationed at the Motherhouse with no assigned duty, but while she was able, she volunteered for office hours at the Taylor Street information desk. Her last two years were spent in the infirmary.

Sister was, to the end, a musician. She had, those last months, an intense desire to play the organ again. Sister Constance helped her to the auditorium organ on three different occasions, the last being August 5th. It was a great satisfaction to Sister to be able still to produce music from the loved instrument. - Hers was no "lost chord," but certainly in heaven she has the happiness of hearing again the swelling harmonies and "grand Amen" she so often and so yearningly evoked on earth.