

August 28, 1954

+
 +
 + + + + +
 +
 +
 +

Sister M. Rayneria Korthals

The second death of the month occurred this evening, Saturday, August 28, at 5:30, when our Sister Rayneria Korthals peacefully closed her quiet life.

Sister was the former Frances Korthals of St. Boniface, Chicago. She was seventy-four years of age and had spent fifty-eight years in religion. She had been appointed to the Motherhouse with no assigned duty in August, 1951, but she was still able to be of service about the house. Just a year ago August 28, 1953, she had been admitted to the infirmary due to progressive carcinoma of the right kidney, from which she had suffered for some time. In March of this year she was taken to St. Joseph Hospital for treatment; but they were unable to alleviate her condition and she was brought back to the infirmary.

She was anointed three times during the last months: May 22, July 15, and August 8. Growing constantly more feeble, three days before her death she contracted hypostatic pneumonia, which proved fatal. She did not speak any more the last three days, but was conscious and aware of the prayers that were being said.

The Requiem Mass was celebrated on Tuesday, August 31, by the Rev. Gervase Brinkman, OFM, with Rev. Firmin Weber, OFM, and Rev. Benedict McCarthy, OFM, deacon and subdeacon. His Excellency, the Most Rev. Martin D. McNamara presided and gave the last absolution. Chaplains were Rev. Henry Wilkening and Rev. James Shimanek; assistant priest at the throne was Rt. Rev. Msgr. M. J. Butala; master of ceremonies was Rev. Thomas B. O'Keefe. Present in the sanctuary was a cousin of Sister's Rt. Rev. Msgr. John B. Sprengel of Chicago; and in the body of the chapel, her invalid brother, Rev. A. F. Korthals, accompanied by Rev. Alphonse Coan, OFM. Burial was made at Mount Olivet, Cemetery, Joliet, Father Gervase officiated at the grave, assisted by Father Alphonse.

Sister Rayneria was an earnest and thorough grade school teacher. She was stationed at various missions, giving longest service at St. Mary's, Columbus, where she taught twelve years, St. Boniface, Chicago, seven years; St. Joseph's, Elgin, five years; and St. Joseph, Freeport, four years. Her last year on mission, 1950-1951, she did the domestic work at the catechetical center, St. Benedict's, Ladd, Illinois.

Sister was a sterling character, pious and prayerful, always placing her religious obligations first. Not that she neglected other duties--she believed that a task done at all should be done well and she brought precision and finish to all her work. While this principle directed her own life, she tried also to impart it to her pupils. Without high standards, she believed, achievement would remain low, and she constantly sought for the "best," though she wisely knew she would not always receive it. Any progress her pupils showed caused her evident pleasure, and even when she met with disappointment in the classroom, she loved teaching no less. She would continue to plant the seed; perhaps later it would grow.

Always somewhat frail, Sister followed the regular routine without exception. The last years of her illness were characterized by serenity and cheerfulness. She was always hopeful that she would get well again, that she might even go back to school; but she was resigned to whatever God willed for her. She never complained. She was grateful for any service rendered her and would always acknowledge it with, "Thank you, I'll pray for you." Grasping well the ideal of the Poverello, she lived simply, poorly even; and when she came to die, she was possessed of nothing----Her riches were in Eternity.