

43. Sister Bernarda Metz
August 18, 1895

+
+
+ + + + +
+
+
+

Sister Bernarda Metz

Sister M. Bernarda, formerly Rosa Metz of New Hamburg, Missouri, died on the 18th of August, 1895, at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Chicago from the effects of an operation, in the thirty-seventh of her age and the twenty-first of her religious life. Her remains were interred in St. Mary's Cemetery, southwest of Chicago.

She was a full sister of Sister Marcella Metz who at the so-called separation ordered by Bishop Foley of the diocese of Chicago in 1878, joined the new community at Rochester, Minnesota. That year brought one of the severest trials of Sister Bernarda's life in the convent. Like her sister she had entered when a mere child and she naturally became much attached to the superior, Mother Alfred. When, as had already been mentioned in our account of the so-called separation, the sisters were called upon by a circular letter, written by order of the bishop, to take sides with one or the other community, and that when once having made the decision the sisters of both communities would have no further communication with each other, this unexpected message came as a thunderbolt to all concerned, but especially to those who were most in sympathy with the former superior, Mother Alfred. Sister Bernarda was among that number. Sister Marcella was at that time stationed at St. Nicholas School in Aurora, Illinois. She followed her local superior, Sister Ferdinand Simon, to join the community at Rochester, Minnesota.

Sister Bernarda's local superior, Sister Clara Schneider, Freeport, Illinois, chose to remain united with the community at Joliet, while Sister Caroline Jungels, who taught with Sister Bernarda at St. Joseph's Freeport, left for Rochester, Minnesota. Sister Bernarda's choice was yet to be made and she prayed long and fervently to know God's will in the matter. On the one hand her desire to be in the same community with her sister to whom she was bound by natural ties, and the gratitude she owed Mother Alfred, her former spiritual mother, urged her to unite with them; on the other hand she was told by her local superior and her spiritual director that it was better to remain in the community that was already well organized and in which she had made her vows. God's will certainly was made known to her for, as soon as she had made the decision, her troubled heart was at rest.

Sister Bernarda was a conscientious religious and ever zealous in her field of labor.