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Sister M. Clarencia Miederhoff

Our Sister Clarencia formerly Emma Miederhoff of New Hamburg, Missouri, died quietly in the Motherhouse Infirmary on Wednesday, October 16, 1957, being sixty-three years of age and having worn the habit forty-six years.

To Sister Peter, who attended her, it seemed significant that Sister's release came on a Wednesday, for her faith in St. Joseph and her recourse to him had been constant. Jesus, Mary and Joseph were the friends of all her last months of illness, as they had been throughout her religious life. When her pain was severest, she called aloud to them for help; her trust in St. Joseph as the special advocate of the dying was deep and firm.

Funeral services were held in the Convent Chapel on Friday, October 18, at 9:30 His Excellency, the Most Rev. Martin D. McNamara, presided at the Solemn Requiem Mass, which was celebrated by Rev. Gervase Brinkman, O.F.M. Rev. Manuel Jiminez, C.M.F., pastor of St. Francis Assisi, Chicago, with Rev. John Malzone of Joliet were the Bishop's chaplains. The Very Rev. Joseph M. Puigri, CMF, provincial of the Claretian Fathers, and Rev. Richard Todd, C.M.F., of St. Jude's Seminary, Momence, were among the clergy in the sanctuary.

Sister Clarencia taught in the schools of the Congregation from 1912 to 1957. Of this span, she spent ten years at St. Peter's, Mansfield, two years at St. John's, Joliet, and one year at St. Mary's, Columbus. The remaining thirty-one years were spent in Chicago --- ten years at St. Francis Xavier, eleven years at Sacred Heart, Engelwood, two years at St. Boniface, and eight years at St. Francis Assisi. At the latter mission she was also superior and principal the last five years. She was unable to complete the final year at St. Francis Assisi and submitted to surgery at St. Francis Hospital, Evanston, on May 7, undergoing radical mastectomy. She was brought to the Convent Infirmary on June 4 and spent the vacation months there. On August 29 she was taken to St. Joseph Hospital for further testing. The diagnosis was metastasis of the liver, and on September 14th she was brought back to the Infirmary. Here she made her prayerful preparation for the end.

As a teacher, Sister Clarencia was conscientious, energetic, and resourceful. She had a gift for gaining her children and she always had their willing co-operation. She had, moreover, a true missionary spirit. It was especially in handling the Mexican children at St. Francis Assisi that this was apparent. She adapted quickly to the situation in her new surroundings; she understood and loved the Mexicans, gained the confidence of her pupils, and was successful in directing them. Though some of her eighth grade boys were "as big as she," they never questioned an order or suggestion, but came right along in all she asked. The parishioners, too, appreciated her work there, as those who came for her wake attested. They knew she had worked unselfishly and even heroically for them to the last of her strength, and they felt that in heaven, though she had merited to "rest in peace," her work for souls would go on.