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Sister Evarista Mrozinska

The tragic death of Sister M. Evarista Mrozinska which occurred on November 13, 1933 was a shock to the entire Community. Sister Evarista was superior and principal of SS. Peter and Paul School, Chicago, as well as the teacher of the eighth grade. On Monday, November 13, Sister had dismissed her class as usual at the close of the afternoon session, and when the accident occurred was evidently on her way to the classrooms where religious instructions were to be given to the Catholic children attending public school. These instructions were conducted regularly after school hours on certain days of the week by the priests of the parish. At this time, however, a Mission was being given by two Redemptorists Fathers, and these Missionaries had taken the classes during the time of the Mission. When Sister Evarista had reached the top of the stairs on the west side of the school building, whether she lost her balance or slipped, no one knows, but she fell down the seven cement steps she had just ascended and struck her head against the stone foundation. Sister Leona Schendel who was in her classroom in a portable building very close to the old school building, saw Sister fall and rushed to help her. By this time others had come. Sister Evarista was unconscious, having suffered a severe skull fracture. She was carried into one of the classrooms and immediately anointed by Rev. John Kenny, C.S.S.R., one of the missionaries, while Rev. Arthur Terlecke, the Pastor, summoned the doctor and the ambulance. Sister was rushed to Saint Bernard's Hospital, where she died about twenty-five minutes to six, less than two hours after the accident had occurred.

Messages of the accident and of her death were received at Joliet at the Motherhouse. Sister Faustina immediately informed Mother Thomasine who was in Columbus, Ohio conducting the canonical visitation. Mother Thomasine reached Chicago the following afternoon, and after learning details of the accident, she took care of the final arrangements for the funeral which had been pending until her arrival. At the request of Sister Evarista's brother, Rev. Francis A. Mrozinska, the remains were brought to St. John's Cemetery, Joliet, for burial. The funeral Mass, however, was celebrated at SS. Peter and Paul Church, Chicago. Sister's brother, Rev. Francis A. Mrozinska of St. Hedwig's Church, New Bedford, Massachusetts, was celebrant of the Mass. He was assisted by Rev. L. Grudzinski, pastor of St. John of God Church, Chicago as deacon, and Rev. Theophilus Wesolowski as subdeacon. Rev. Stanislas was Master of Ceremonies.

It seems providential that Sister Evarista had the pleasure of a visit, or rather several visits, from her brother, Rev. Francis Mrozinski, who had come from New Bedford, Massachusetts to Chicago to visit his immediate relations just a week or two before Sister's death. On the Saturday previous Father Mrozinski and several other members of the immediate family had visited Sister. She had remarked how much she had enjoyed the visit. Father Mrozinski had made all plans to return to New Bedford when he received the shocking news of Sister's death.

At the time of her death, Sister Evarista was in the fifty-seventh year of her age and the thirty-third of her religious life.

Sister M. Francis Krivanek who had been appointed to take the eighth grade after the death of Sister Evarista, was also appointed superior and principal on November 23. Rev. Mother M. Thomasine had remained at SS. Peter and Paul since Sister died, and had held the canonical visitation at the close of which Sister M. Francis had been appointed.