

SISTER M. ADRIAN, O.S.F.
March 2, 1965

It was St. Mary's, Rock Island -- it was the spring of 1962 -- it was Sister Adrian's last mission -- her last class -- her last organ. She was ending a teaching career which had begun in 1906 at St. Boniface, and which at its termination had included every one of the elementary grades -- and many organs.

She had always liked to recall her "children" of other years. And one of her last pleasurable moments occurred in September when her 1929 graduating class from Hubbard Woods came en masse -- all nine of them -- from Florida, Washington, Wisconsin, and various sections of Illinois -- to Our Lady of Angels to make their old teacher a part of their reunion.

Sister was already failing, but she enjoyed to the full that moment when the past merged with the present, and her boys and girls of thirty-five years ago posed with her for a reunion picture. In November she recalled that day for her brother -- remembering the planter, the sweets, the "bills" that had been the "children's" gift to her.

Her brother's visit, too, was a happy time for Sister Adrian. He had brought the traditional picnic lunch with her favorite sandwiches, and though they had to enjoy the lunch indoors, enjoy it they did. "This is like old times!" Sister exclaimed. "I was wishing for my brother Charlie!"

There were not to be many more such happy moments. For a week later, following a fall that fractured her arm, Sister began the downhill journey. She responded briefly when her nephew, Father Richard, came on the 19th, and from him she received Holy Communion; by him she was anointed.

That anointing was to be repeated before the end, for Sister Adrian was to know bad and better days, but never really good ones. Then on the 28th of February, she told Sister Constance, "I'm so tired!" and early next morning there was a definite change -- Sister Adrian would not rally again.

She lingered, however, through Monday, into Tuesday. She could not hear the prayers for the dying that began early Tuesday afternoon. She did not know that her former postulant, Sister Constance, was with her, that Sister Tharla had left her only minutes before the end, nor that her other postulants -- Sisters Cyril, Stella, Wilhelmine, Carmelita, Dora, Dolorita, Hiltrude, Charitas -- went about their work at OLA with a prayer for the Sister who had guided their postulant life; some twenty-five and more years ago.

The end came quietly, without difficulty, with no struggle. Suddenly, at 4:27 on a brooding March afternoon, Sister Adrian was gone. * * * * *

On the days when she could not join the other Sisters in the Solarium, Sister Adrian had welcomed them in her room. Invariably, she would ask them to sing, -- and she always called the tune. Her favorites? "I Love Thee, O Mary" and "Home on the Range."

The angelic chorus may have a little trouble with that last number -- but Sister Adrian will hardly mind. There's all Eternity to work on it!

GOD GRANT HER REST ETERNAL !!!!!
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