



Mother Alexander Munch

Another death followed very soon. This time our beloved Mother M. Alexander Munch was called to her eternal reward after a long life and many years of devoted service in the religious life.

On the day after Sister Magdalen's death Reverend Mother Thomasine was called to the Motherhouse from Streator because it was feared that Mother Alexander would not live through the night. Although she had been in the infirmary since the early part of September and was in the very poorest health, still it did not seem that she was in any danger of death. She was extremely weak, and was not gaining in strength, but everyone thought, including herself, that with continued care and rest she would improve. On the day that Sister Magdalen died Mother Alexander took seriously ill, so much so that it seemed death would overtake her quickly. She received the last sacraments and was prepared for death. She rallied again, and for some days seemed to be improving, but it did not last. She became worse day after day, and finally on the feast of the great Franciscan, St. Elizabeth, November 19, 1935, death claimed our dear Mother Alexander, a few minutes after eight o'clock in the morning.

Mother Alexander filled the office of Superior General for twelve years - 1899 to 1911. She was the first Superior General to be elected under the new term of six years. She was re-elected for a second term. She was succeeded in office by Mother M. Vincent, who completed two full terms and was re-elected for a third term. Before the end of the third year, this term was interrupted by her death. During these fifteen years Mother Alexander was the Vicarress. All told, including her terms as Superior General, she was in the General Council about forty years, having been elected a member of the Council even while she was Superior at St. Mary's, Columbus.

Her passing left the Community without an ex-Superior General, the first time in its history. During Mother Alexander's administration, Feb. 8 1908, Mother M. Alberta died; the first one to die of those who had held the office of Superior General, if Mother M. Alfred who formed the new Community in Rochester, Minnesota is not taken into account here. Three died during Mother Vincent's terms - Mother M. Francis in January, 1916, Mother M. Lucy in April, 1917 and Mother M. Angela in March 1923. Two were living when Mother Thomasine was elected Superior General in July, 1926 - Mother Celestine and Mother Alexander. Mother Celestine died the following year - July, 1927.

In the General Chapter of July 1926, Mother Alexander was not elected to the Council. This, however, made no change in her desires to serve the Community and its Superiors wherever and whenever she could. Several times she substituted taking charge of houses where the Superiors had taken ill and would not be on duty for an indefinite time. St. Pascal, Chicago, and St. John's, Joliet, were two of these. For several years, with the help of the novices, she was sacristan of the chapel of the Motherhouse. In and

about the convent she took interest in the smallest details, offering her help wherever she saw a need. Mother Alexander was ever the exemplary religious, the devoted daughter of our Holy Father St. Francis, the true Spouse of Christ.

The funeral services were held from the chapel of the Motherhouse on November 21. Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edmund Burkley, pastor of St. Mary's Columbus, Ohio, was celebrant of the Requiem High Mass, assisted by Rev. Richard Hills as deacon and Rev. Dominic Limacher, O.F.M. as subdeacon, both cousins of Mother Alexander. Father Scanlan of St. Raymond's, Joliet, Father Plevnik of St. Joseph's Joliet and Father Terlecke, SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago were in the sanctuary. The burial took place in St. John's Cemetery, Joliet. Msgr. Burkley recited the prayers at the grave.

At the time of her death Mother Alexander lacked less than two months of being eighty-two years old, more than sixty-six of which had been spent in the community.