Sister Blandina Neilitz

Sister Blandina Neilitz died shortly after noon on December 14, 1934. Sister's illness began with a partial stroke which she suffered at the dinner table on March 17, 1933 at St. Mary's Mission, Rock Island. She was immediately taken to St. Anthony's Hospital there. Having sufficiently recovered from the effects of the stroke, she was taken to the Motherhouse on April 7.

While in the infirmary she improved considerably and after the first retreat she left the infirmary to go to the Preparatory for rest and quiet. Her speech was still slightly effected and also her walk. She remained at the Preparatory all summer, and when the appointments were made, Sister was assigned to Immaculate Conception, Kankakee, not for any particular duty, but only to help here and there with light work if she felt able to do so. She remained there, however, only until December 28, 1933, when she returned to the Motherhouse because of the condition of her health. After a short time she was again confined to the infirmary where she remained until her death. She suffered several minor strokes in the course of these months, and a very severe one some days before her death.

At the time of her death Sister Blandina was in the fifty-second year of her age and the thirty-fifth of her religious life. The Solemn Requiem Mass was sung by Rev. Cyriac Stempel, O.F.M. who had known her from childhood at Saint John the Baptist Church, Joliet. Father Cyrias was assisted by the Rev. Thomas Rust, O.F.M. as deacon and the Rev. Albert Bruesermann, O.F.M. as subdeacon.

Sister Blandina was a niece of Sister M. Damiana.