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Sister M. Berchmans O'Sullivan

With only a few hours warning, swiftly, quietly, Sister M. Berchmans slipped off to God on Wednesday, November 12. She had spent the day preceding in the College Community Room as usual, but did not feel well on retiring. Sister Tharla attended her several times through the night, and the next morning directed her to remain in bed, saying Holy Communion would be brought to her. After Mass Sister was anointed by Father Ermin, chaplain, and was then brought to the Motherhouse Infirmary that oxygen might be administered. This was scarcely done when she was stricken with cerebral thrombosis. Doctor Stevens, who arrived just at that time gave her an injection and prescribed further medication, but felt the case would be terminal.

Father Ermin again visited her, led the Franciscan Crown and said the prayers for the dying, but Sister, who had responded fervently and lucidly earlier at her anointing, now gave no sign of consciousness. It was clearly a matter on only a short time. A few minutes after the noonday Angelus, Sister stopped breathing.

Sister Berchman was the former Margaret O'Sullivan of Washburn, Wisconsin. She was in the seventy-first year of her age and the fifty-second year of her religious life.

Funeral services were held in the Convent chapel Saturday, November 15. The Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated by Rev. Ermin Micka, O.F.M. Bural took place at Mount Olivet Cemetery.

Sister Berchmans, a retired teacher, had spent almost thirty years in the grades in Chicago, Johnstown, Bayfield, and Streator. For two years she was prefect at St. Mary's Bayfield, and one year was assistant postulant mistress. In 1929-1930 Sister suffered a tubercular attack and after her recovery she did not return to the classroom. For ten years she was switchboard operator at the College and Academy, and the last ten years she was receptionist at the College Information office. Since September she had no desk duties, but she assumed phone duty in the Community Room and occupied herself in her usual quiet and serviceable way.

Quiet service was, in fact, the keynote of Sister Berchman's life; she seemed to derive real happiness in helping others. Always she showed a warm personal interest in both the Sisters and the girls, and many a resident student found her an understanding friend and wise guide. Her faithfulness to duty was outstanding, as was her deep spirituality. She loved to discuss spiritual conferences and reading; and though her days were often busy, none was ever so full that her prayers were neglected. "I will not go to bed until they are said," she once stated. Prayer was light and life to her here. How rapturous she must find it in eternity.