

SISTER M. APOLLONIA PRIESTER

289. AUGUST 22, 1948

A member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate, Joliet, IL for 77 years, Sister Apollonia, formerly Mary Priester of Ss. Peter & Paul Parish, St. Louis, MO, died at the Motherhouse after a brief illness. Sister was in her 93rd year. She was born on March 4, 1856, to Mathias and Mary Sapington Priester.

Sister Apollonia's Mission record is extensive:

1871-72	St. Mary, Memphis, TN	Grades: 1,2,3,4
1872-74	St. Lawrence, NewHamburg, MO	1,2,3,4
1874-76	St. Francis Assisi, Chicago, IL	3,4
1876-79	St. Mary, Columbus, OH	1 - 6
1879-80	St. Joseph, Galion, OH	1,2,3,4
1880-81	St. Peter, Mansfield, OH	1,2,3
1881-86	St. Wenceslas, Chicago, IL	6,7,8
1886-90	St. Wenceslas, Detroit, MI	6,7,8
1890-91	St. Stanislas, St. Louis, MO	6,7,8
1891-93	St. Michael, Sigel, IL	6,7,8
1893-94	St. Vitus, Chicago, IL	6,7,8
1894-95	Sacred Heart, Englewood, IL	6,7,8
1895-04	St. Francis deSales, Chicago, IL	5,6,7,8
1904-08	St. Wenceslas, Chicago, IL	7,8
1908-14	St. Procop, Cleveland, OH	Principal
1914-16	Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL	Procurator
1916-17	St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL	Procurator
1917-20	St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL	Superior/Principal
1920-21	St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL	Convalescing
1921-22	St. Joseph, Joliet, IL	Superior/Principal
1922-28	Holy Family, Cleveland, OH	Superior/Principal
1928-39	St. Francis Prep, Joliet, IL	Aspirant Mistress
1939-48	St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL	Portress & Resting

Upon examination it is evident that Sister Apollonia's years in the community are only six years shy the age of the community. Sister Apollonia served in Memphis, Tennessee, before Sisters: Bonaventure Erdmann and Gabriella Butzen died there during the yellow fever epidemic. She was teaching at St. Mary, Columbus, OH, when the decision to remain in the Joliet community or join Mother Alfred in Rochester, MN, had to be made within the first ten days of 1878!

Sister Apollonia was missioned in Detroit, MI, when she had her first encounter with Bridget McMahan. She wisely asked to be transferred but this persistent lady followed her to St. Louis. On November 18, 1890, Bridget duped Sisters Apollonia and Solana. They went with her to Detroit, only to learn that the lady was not to be trusted. The new religious community never materialized and our two Sisters humbly begged Mother Alexander's forgiveness and

readmission into the Congregation. Their readmission took place on March 17, 1891, and within a short time after they were re-instated to their original rank.

In 1906 when Sister Apollonia was preparing to celebrate the 25th anniversary of her reception into the Novitiate, she began to question the "rank" system and to inquire why her Novitiate had been so long. She was not professed until 1876. No one was still living who could answer her question. Perhaps it was age since she was only 20 years old when she professed her First Vows.

Sister Appollonia celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 1932, and her 75th anniversary in 1947. On the large photo of the Congregation for the 1940 celebration, Sister Apollonia is to the right of Mother Thomasine with only Sister Stanislas between her and the Reverend Mother's right hand!