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Sister M. Anita Prokop

Ill since Easter and hospitalized since May 24, Sister M. Anita Prokop, sixty-eight, today won entrance to eternity. She passed away quietly at 4:00 p.m. at St. Alexis Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio. The mission Sisters from Holy Family, having recited the rosary, had just left her bedside; her two sisters, Pauline and Lillian, had remained and were present at her passing. Nephritis of two years' standing caused her death. She had also been convalescent three years following surgery for a spinal tumor in 1956. Sister was well prepared to die and faced the end knowingly. When sickness took her from the classroom in spring, she declared, "I will not be back in school any more."

Sister Anita's Cleveland background made it natural to accede to her people's request to have a Cleveland funeral. The Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated at Holy Family by Father Clarence Liederbach, pastor, with the two assistants, Father James Mosovsky and Father Edward Ruplek as deacon and subdeacon. In the sanctuary were Rev. Wenceslas Uhlir, pastor of her home parish of St. Procop's, and Fathers John Anzel, Paul Plafcan, and Carl Uhlir, all of Cleveland.

Burial was made at Mt. Calvary Cemetery on the Prokop family lot. - Ven. M. Immaculate, Sisters M. Edna, Wilhelmine, Neri, and Miriam Edward attended from Joliet. The Sisters of the three Cleveland missions and eleven Sisters from St. Peter's, Mansfield, also attended.

In paying tribute to Sister Anita, one may well quote the words of Father Liederbach at the funeral: "They tell me the Sisters ordinarily do not have a funeral sermon. In this case, it is evident there is no need for one. Sister's life was a daily sermon, for it was a life of self-effacement, self-denial, and service. We saw the proof of these virtues day by day, and even more especially during her illness. She continued these last years to teach--and to teach well--with no regard for her own comfort or convenience. Her children will never forget her or the lessons she taught."

Among our younger Sisters, those who were once Sister's pupils attest to her vigor in the classroom, her originality in directing school activities and projects, her sense of humor which always highlighted the happy side of life, and her purposiveness. She had a goal, and she steadily pursued it, they said, delighting that none of the children who passed through school could "escape" having her in the sixth grade. Hers was the notable teaching that aimed to do pupils good--that trained the mind, molded character, and cultivated virtues.

With the Sisters, Sister Anita was always a congenial companion. She found she could enjoy most of what life offered, and she never missed the fun of its amusing little incidents. She led those about her to appreciate this fun as well. Usually active, Sister was never so occupied that she could not save margins of time for others. Many hands less skilled than hers blessed her for the neat stitching of habit or coif that she did for them with such easy grace.

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And so it was she served her Community through forty-two years-- twenty-six of these at Holy Family, Cleveland. Her first ten years on mission she spent at St. Procopius, Chicago; later, four years were devoted to St. Peter's, Mansfield, and one year to St. Francis De Sales, Toledo. The remaining year she spent in the Motherhouse Infirmary. - With singleness of purpose Sister Anita made all these years and all that they held stepping stones to the eternal reward, which, for her, lay always bright and beckoning just beyond the day's duties. May her inheritance now be eternal peace in the Lord!