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Sister Miriam Quiggle

Sister Miriam Quiggle, was called to day to "see God," closed her eyes to the lesser sights of the world at 11:27 a.m. in the Mother-house Infirmary. Sister was admitted to the infirmary from the College on January 13th following a heart attack and the diagnosis of "coronary occlusion" by Dr. Faulkner. She was anointed on January 21st by Father Ermin, the College Chaplain. After making unusual improvement, she became excessively oppressed about her poor vision. The doctor felt her depression contributed to the second coronary condition - acute myocardial decompensation - from which she could not recover. Father Ermin was her faithful visitor and brought what comfort he could.

Sister Miriam was the former Mary Catherine Quiggle, of Galion, Ohio. Her death occurred in the fifty-sixth year of her age and the thirty-third of her religious life.

Funeral services were held Saturday, March 8th, in the Convent chapel. His Excellency, the Most Rev. Martin D. McNamara, D.D., presided at the Solemn Requiem Mass which was celebrated by Father Ermin. Burial was made in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Joliet.

Sister began her professed life in the classroom. After two years in the grades, she spent three years in the high school, the first of these at St. Mary's, Columbus, and the remaining two at St. Francis Academy. Her failing eyesight made further teaching impossible, and she was assigned to domestic work at St. Peter's Mansfield, where she spent the next eight years. A two-year period as receptionist at the College was followed by three years of convalescence at the Mother-house. An eye operation by Dr. Wadsworth had improved her vision, and she was again appointed to the information office at the College, which position she held until her illness in January.

Though Sister Miriam's convent career on the whole was one of quiet retirement, she was in several ways a true missionary. Her "special intention" throughout her convent days was the conversion of her non-Catholic father, for whom her constant prayers were offered. At the time of her funeral, he had just turned eighty-three years old and still declared he was "not a church-goer but tried to live a good Christian life." A number of the Sisters told him of Sister Miriam's prayers and assured him she would be continuing them in heaven.

A second missionary activity was her union in prayer and suffering with such missionary priests as Father Leander Conley, O.F.M. and Father Francis Larkin, SS.CC. of Fairhaven, Massachusetts. Her offering gave purpose to her routine duties and relieved the monotony of her uneventful days. Her correspondence with these priests, too, brought her inspiration and encouragement. She was truly bereft of a loyal friend when in December of 1954 Father Leander died, but her efforts for Father Larkin grew the more zealous. She had the comfort of a visit from Father Larkin about two weeks before her death, and on the day of her burial, his long distance telephone message assured the Community that, though he could not attend the funeral, he was "united in prayer

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for the repose of her soul."

Fond of reading and a good writer, Sister never lost her interest in literature and composition. With the aid of her reading glass, in spite of strain, she would peruse books and study articles closely. And a loved pastime of hers was to work up into a poem or essay any "inspiration" which came to her.

Though Sister Miriam's eyesight was dim, she was blessed with the "inner vision" of a courageous spirit. We can only believe the light of eternity is all the brighter for the cross she bore and the sacrifice she brought bravely while on earth.