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Sister M. Willette Redel

Our Sister M. Willette Redel this evening answered the call of "Death's bright Angel," winning release from the illness which had beset her in the past five months--generalized carcinomatosis. Sister had in February undergone surgery for carcinoma of the right breast, but this was merely a palliative measure, since the tumor was far advanced before she ever consulted a doctor.

Following surgery, she was consigned to the Motherhouse infirmary as a complete bed patient. Everyone knew it was only a matter of time. Sister continued to lose ground physically, but spiritually she gathered strength. Her sweetness and patience were unassailable. Her fourth anointing administered by Father Gervase on July 7th, showed her thoroughly prepared to "go forth." Father Kenneth Hans, Sister Edna's brother was with her the evening she died. He led the rosary and blessed her repeatedly. Sister's death occurred on Saturday, July 15, 1950, at 7:15 p.m. She was 54 years of age and had lived in religion for 18 years. She had entered the convent from St. Mary's, Columbus, Ohio.

The funeral services were held in the chapel of the Motherhouse on Tuesday morning, July 18th, at 8:15. His excellency, the Most Reverend Martin D. McNamara, bishop of Joliet presided at the Solemn Requiem Mass, which was sung by Rev. Gervase Brinkman, OFM, Rev. Lucien Trouhy, OFM, assisted as deacon, and Rev. Benedict Pfeifer, OFM, as subdeacon. Assistants at the throne were the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edwin V. Hoover of St. Raymond Cathedral and Rev. Leonard Lenc of St. Joseph church. The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edmund Burkley was present in the sanctuary.

Sister Willette had spent fifteen busy years in the classroom, chiefly as a primary teacher. Nine of these years were devoted to St. Raymond's, Joliet; almost six, to St. Mary's, Des Plaines. Sister was a zealous and thorough teacher, giving careful attention to each subject and to each child. Of a gentle and winning disposition, she was pleasant with the children, and they in turn gave her their confidence and responded readily to her direction. Breaking this contact was perhaps her one regret in giving up teaching. She might well have said, "Look for me in the nurseries of heaven."