

+
+
+ + + + +
+
+
+

Sister M. Louisa Redlinger

Our Venerable Sister M. Louisa Redlinger, oldest member of our Community since the death of Sister M. Stanislaus in October of 1952, died at the Motherhouse infirmary Monday, September 20, at 12:48 a.m. Sister was ninety-one years of age and had spent seventy-one years in religion. She was the former Susan Redlinger of Freeport, Illinois.

Sister Louisa had been in the infirmary since March, 1950. Her helplessness of the past year began September 23 with a fall in which she broke her hip. She was taken to St. Joseph Hospital and was brought back to the infirmary on October 1. She eventually managed to get about on the fourth floor with the aid of a walker, but she failed since the summer, and was anointed June 15, August 8, and September 16. She suffered complications due to old age, and the last three days had contracted broncho-pneumonia due to myocardial failure. Her final struggle began on Saturday with difficult breathing, and shortly after midnight of Sunday, she passed away quietly, her breath simply slowing and ceasing.

The Requiem Mass was celebrated on Wednesday, September 22, by Rev. Gervase Brinkman, OFM, assisted by Rev. Benedict Pfeifer, OFM, and Rev. Benedict McCarthy, OFM, as deacon and subdeacon. Burial was made at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Joliet, Father Gervase officiating at the grave.

Sister Louisa's last years were summarized by the infirmarian as follows: "Sister was senile, but had many good qualities. She always wanted to share with others the little she had, such as religious pictures, sweets, her tray desserts. She loved fun and jokes and had a ready laugh. She could whistle, too, and would sometimes substitute the soft music of it for her nurse's bell. She was sweet and prayerful, and her Communion were especially beautiful. As Father entered her room each morning, she always greeted her God by bowing her head and saying, 'Praise be Jesus Christ, now and forever.'"

Sister Louisa had begun mission life as a teacher at St. Procopius, Chicago, but, threatened with tuberculosis, after a year's convalescence, she was appointed prefect at St. Mary's Bayfield, for three years. Following that, she did domestic work most of her active life. She was stationed at the Motherhouse for seven years; at St. Francis De Sales, for ten years, the last five as portress. She served at St. Boniface, St. Ludmilla's, SS. Cyril and Methodius, all in Chicago; at St. Joseph's and St. Patrick's, Galion; at St. Joseph's Joliet; and at Aurora and Leonore. A Sister who lived with her during the later years wrote: "There was a pleasant simplicity about Sister Louisa. If it weren't for her strength of will, she could be classed with the 'Brother Junipers' of the Franciscan Order. No great responsibilities were hers to shoulder, but many a task that would have been unwanted by others she did willingly and cheerfully." May she, after many years, enter into the rest she so richly deserves.