

+
+
+ + + + +
+
+
+

328. Sister M. Leocadia Reeb
May 25, 1954

Sister M. Leocadia Reeb

Our Sister M. Leocadia Reeb died in the Motherhouse infirmary on Tuesday, May 25, 1954, at 4:50 a.m. Sister had been in the infirmary for a period of six months, having come from her post as third and fourth grade teacher at the Guardian Angel Home on November 27, 1953. Her ailment, chronic lymphatic leukemia, was already in advanced stage when she gave up her work, and she continued to decline through the months in the infirmary. She was anointed the first time on New Year's Day and again in March and in May. Though these were difficult months and Sister suffered severely, she was completely resigned in her illness and offered her pain in union with the suffering Savior. She wished to make the best possible use of her remaining time and she devoted most of her waking and conscious moments to meditation and prayer.

Funeral services were held in the chapel of the Motherhouse on Friday, May 28, at 9:30 a.m. His Excellency, the Most Rev. Martin D. McNamara, Bishop of Joliet, presided at the Solemn Requiem Mass, which was celebrated by the Rev. Gervase Brinkman, OFM. The Rev. Winfred Cool, OFM, and Rev. Alphonse Coan, OFM, were deacon and subdeacon. Rev. John Desmond and Rev. George Mickovic were assistants at the throne; Rev. Thomas O'Keefe was master of ceremonies. Interment was made at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Joliet, Father Gervase officiating at the grave.

Sister Leocadia was the former Hedwig Reeb from St. Mary's Columbus. At the time of her death she was in the seventy-third year of her life and the forty-ninth of her religious life. She was a sister to our deceased Sister M. Valeria.

Sister Leocadia began her teaching career in 1907 at St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, but had to return to the Motherhouse because of ill health. She did domestic work, was portress, and enjoyed short periods from time to time of teaching, until 1915. For the next fifteen years she was stationed chiefly at the Convent and Academy, where she did private tutoring, prefecting or taught fifth and sixth, or seventh and eighth grades. After two years at St. John's, Joliet, she was appointed superior and principal in St. Joseph's, Freeport. Here she also taught seventh and eighth grades; and in 1938 she was given a similar appointment at St. Mary Magdalene's, Columbus, which she filled for six years. From 1945 to 1947 she was superior and principal at St. Mary's, Des Plaines, and from 1947 to 1950, at St. Boniface, Chicago. In 1950-1951 she was superior at Corpus Christ, Columbus. Her last two and a half years were spent at Guardian Angel Home teaching third and fourth grades.

Sister had good success in the classroom. A dynamic teacher, she used every possible device to brighten her subjects and appeal to the children's interest. She urged her pupils to enter civic contests, and held frequent contests and gave prizes in her own classes. Poster projects, too, were favorites with her, and many a class unit was vitalized with a poster assignment. She had, moreover, a bright sense of humor, which she converted into a real virtue.

In school and out she brightened what was drab with it and lightened what was difficult. Everywhere she spread merriment and cheer among her fellow Sisters and her pupils. On the other hand, she knew the limits of humor, and where she met real need, she made no attempt to laugh it off, but gave readily of her sympathy and understanding, as well as her practical and efficient help wherever conditions called for it.

A fervent and prayerful life, a wise and sympathetic heart, a joyous spirit -- these were the commonplaces of Sister Leocadia's life which the Sister summarized in a brief phrase - "ripe for heaven."