



Sister De Chantal Ross

On the 16th of April 1896 Sister De Chantal, formerly Catharine Ross of Farmington, Wisconsin, died at the Motherhouse in the twenty-fifth year of her age and the seventh of her religious life.

Sister De Chantal was beloved by her superiors and companion sisters for her kind and gentle manners. Before she entered the community her aspirations were to become a public school teacher, but God, through the instrumentality of her confessor, Rev. F. Keller, who was a most pious and zealous priest, conducted her and a cousin of hers, Josephine Roway, later Sister Beatrice to Eau Claire, Wisconsin, where Sister Mary John Rooney was stationed as superior of St. Patrick School. The good father had become acquainted with this sister through his friend, Reverend Dean Collins, the rector of St. Patrick's.

One day he brought the two candidates, the younger being only thirteen years of age and said, "Sister Mary John, I have brought you these girls; they want to become religious. I will entrust them to your care". He then bade the sister and the girls adieu without making any further inquiry. No doubt he thought they would be received and invested there. Here they were, the two cousins, having been started on their journey "without purse or scrip", like the disciples of old, with this difference, that the latter had been sent to teach, while our two candidates had come to prepare for their mission of teaching.

When asked about their wardrobe, etc., they said they brought a few things with them, but had not been told about what they were required to bring. Of course, they wrote to their parents and were provided with what was necessary. In the meantime Sister Mary John made application for them to the Motherhouse, and shortly after they were both admitted as postulants.

Thus we can say that all turned out satisfactorily, both for the new comers and for the community, as neither ever had any reasons for regrets. Would to God there were many more such zealous and well meaning priests to send good young girls to the congregation of Mary Immaculate at Joliet, for as it has been from the beginning, so the complaint is still that, the harvest is too great for the number of laborers, and we need to continue to pray that the Lord may vouchsafe to supply the want.