

SISTER M. FERNANDA RYAN

456. AUGUST 21, 1969

Sister M. Fernanda, formerly Catherine Ryan, died at St. Joseph Hospital, Joliet, IL, on August 21, 1969, at 10:05 a.m. Her death was hastened by injuries suffered during an automobile accident on August 4, 1969. The autopsy listed massive pulmonary embolism as the chief cause of death. Sister Fernanda was in her 69th year and the 53rd of religious life. Funeral services were held in Our Lady of Angels Chapel at 10 a.m. on August 23, 1969, followed by burial in Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL.

Catherine was born on January 18, 1901, in Mansfield, OH, to Dennis and Catherine Miller Ryan. She entered the postulancy from St. Peter Parish, Mansfield, OH, on September 7, 1916. Catherine became Sister Fernanda on August 12, 1917, when she began her Novitiate. She pronounced her First Vows on August 12, 1919, and her Final Vows on August 12, 1922.

Sister Fernanda earned her Bachelor of Music Education from DePaul University, Chicago, IL, in 1937, and a Master of Arts degree in Music from Northwestern University Evanston, IL, in 1957. She also studied various musical instruments at Conn National School of Music, Chicago, IL, before beginning her degressed programs.

Sister Fernanda celebrated her Silver Jubilee in 1944 and her Golden Jubilee in June, 1969, about than two months before she died. Most of her years in religious life were devoted to music and drama. She served:

1918-19	St. Mary, Columbus, OH	Grade 3
1919-20	Sts. Peter and Paul, Leonore, IL	Grade 1, Music
1920-21	St. Procopius, Chicago, IL	Music
1921-24	St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL	Music, Organist
1924-26	St. Boniface, Chicago, IL	Music
1926-32	St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL	Music, Organist
1932-33	St. Francis Prep, Joliet, IL	Music, History
1933-35	St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL	Music, Organist
1935-44	Immaculate Conception, Toledo, OH	Kindergarten, 8

Music: Private lessons, School and Church, Chancel Choir

1944-60	St. Francis Prep, Joliet, IL	Superior
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Organist, Aspirants' choir, private lessons
College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL: Childrens' Theatre
St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL: Violin, String ensemble
1960-64 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL: Childrens' Theatre
1964-69 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL: Childrens' Theatre

The National Childrens' Theatre Foundation honored Sister Fernanda by donations in her name to further the education of teachers of children's dramatics. Sister Fernanda composed dramatic productions for her students as well as directing the presentations. Her many years of tireless work with the children is preserved in photographs of her productions.

Sister Fernanda had undergone surgery for multiple enlarged masses of the thyroid gland for which a bilateral sub-total thyroidectomy was done in June, 1961. For many years she had suffered from arthritis.