

SISTER M. ALOYSIA SCHAEFER
237. JULY 13, 1940

Sister M. Aloysia, Margaret Schaefer of St. Bernard, Nebraska, died at the Motherhouse in Joliet, on Saturday, July 13, 1940, at 1:25 p.m. DST, in her 73rd year and the 56th of her religious life. The primary cause of death was carcinoma of the bladder with chronic myocarditis and acute cardiac dilation. Funeral services were held in the Motherhouse Chapel on July 16 at 8:15 a.m. with burial in St. John Cemetery.

Margaret was born on June 8, 1869, in Retrad, West Prussia, to Michael and Susanna Weber Schaefer. We have no record of when the family came to the United States but by 1877, her younger sister, Mary, who became Sister Leonissa, was born in Mt. Calvary, Wisconsin.

Margaret obtained her Baptismal record, dated March 5, 1882, verifying her birth date and her Baptism in St. Remigius Church in Retterath. She entered as a postulant from St. Bernard, Nebraska, on May 22, 1884, and the Novitiate on August 9, 1884, with the new name, Sister Aloysia. She pronounced her First Vows on August 14, 1886 and Final Vows on August 12, 1889. Sister Aloysia celebrated her Golden Jubilee with Sisters Ottilia and Valeria in 1936.

Sister Aloysia lived most of her religious life at the Motherhouse of the community. Her record reads:

1885-88 St. Francis Assisi, Chicago, IL, Grades 3,4
1888-04 St. Francis Convent and Academy, Music teacher
1904-11 St. Francis Convent, Postulant Mistress
1911-23 St. Francis Convent, Novice Mistress
1923-26 St. Francis Convent, Motherhouse Superior
Novice Mistress
1926-28 St. Francis Prep (Fox Estate), Directress of Aspirants
1928-32 St. Francis Convent, Postulant Mistress
1932-38 St. Francis Convent, Motherhouse Superior
Novice Mistress
1938-40 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Superior

Sister Aloysia became sick and entered St. Francis Hospital, Columbus, Ohio, on February 1, 1940. Soon after on March 20, 1940, she came home to the Motherhouse Infirmary and died here on July 13 due to cancer and chronic heart disease.