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Sister M. Fabian Schmal

Another jubilarian went to claim her "crown of everlasting glory" today, - Sister M. Fabian, who celebrated the golden anniversary of her profession last year. Sister's death, caused by embolism, was sudden and unexpected. She had undergone gall bladder surgery the preceding Thursday at St. Anthony's Hospital, Chicago, and was doing exceptionally well. She had that morning said her Breviary sitting up, but having risen again after dinner, she grew ill about 1:30 and asked to be helped back to bed. When Sister Luella arrived to stay with her for the afternoon, she was informed that Sister was too sick to see anyone and was to be anointed. Sister Luella at once notified Reverend Mother Borromeo and Sister Fabian's relatives, and then returned to pray with Sister. Though gasping for breath, Sister joined in the prayers. She knew she was dying and said, "God's will be done."

After administering Extreme Unction, the hospital chaplain recited the prayers for the dying. Sister Fabian's niece, who was the nurse in attendance, the hospital Sisters, Dr. Donlan the surgeon, and Dr. Fordham the physician, were all present and stayed until sister's death at 2:50 p.m.

Sister was brought to Joliet for burial. His Excellency, the Most Rev. Martin D. McNamara, presided at the Solemn Requiem Mass on Saturday, July 5th. Father Gervase officiated at the grave in Mount Olivet Cemetery. - Sister was at the time of her death in the sixty-ninth year of her age and the fifty-third of her religious life. She was the former Augusta Schmal of Chicago, daughter of Franz and Ernestine Klausch Schmal.

Sister Fabian's service to the Community totaled fifty-one years of vigorous work in the classroom and the convent. Ten years at St. Mary's Columbus, and eight at St. Peter's, Mansfield; five years at St. Francis Assisi, four years at Ss. Peter and Paul, Chicago; six years as Superior and Principal at Immaculate Conception, Kankakee, and three years at Guardian Angel Home--these were her chief appointments. From 1929 to 1940 she taught in high school; her earlier and later years were in the grades.

Energetic and community-minded, Sister Fabian was a hard worker. Whether in teaching, directing a paper drive, helping in kitchen or laundry, she would be the first to offer for any extra service, the last on duty to tire. Optimistic in her outlook on life and humorous in her reactions to it, she was always ready with the little jest to smoothe a rough spot or to enhance a bright one.

Direct and straight-forward, a lover of activity and a lover of sports, in school Sister's appeal was particularly to the boys. She was, by the testimony of all her pupils and by her own stated preference, a "boy's teacher." Her understanding of them and her influence over them were apparent. In her opinion there were no problem boys, there were only boys with problems - and her instinct for solving problems, both mathematical and personal, was unailing. Champion of boys, she in turn won their loyalty. A little incident that occurred during the wake might well be considered typical of the attitude of the boys she had taught: a former pupil at St. Francis Assisi, now a young man, called at the convent with a basket of roses "for Sister Fabian." He carried them up to the coffin, reverently deposited the basket on the floor, then quietly knelt down,

withdrawn in prayer. His was a simple and touching tribute for a Sister to whom, as he put it, he "owed much."

There would be many such boys, such men; their lives of faith and good works, their grateful memory of her help and guidance were the crown she treasured here, and part of the crown she hoped for hereafter.