

311. Sister M. Gertrude Schmidt
May 15, 1951

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Sister M. Gertrude Schmidt

Our faithful Sister Gertrude Schmidt, diamond jubilarian since 1942, died of myocarditis in the Motherhouse infirmary Tuesday, May 15th at 1:55 p.m., having attained the 88th year of her age and the 69th of her religious life. She had entered from Chicago.

For sixty-five years Sister Gertrude did domestic work in the convent, first at various missions, then at the Guardian Angel Home and the Motherhouse. For twenty-eight years she kept the orphanage kitchen running smoothly, her kind heart and gently disposition fitting her in a special way for the work there. In 1939, with fifty-six years' work for the Community to her credit, she started her ten years of service as domestic helper in the infirmary. Again she made of this a loving labor.

In February of 1949 sickness changed her status to patient. She was not able to take up active duties again, but gave herself entirely to prayer. It became her last and best-loved apostolate. Many believed in the power of her intercession and asked for her prayers. Once when Bishop McNamara visited the Infirmary he asked, "Sister, where's your radio?" Pointing to the rosary in her hand, she replied, "This is my radio." And so it was. But it was not only her recreation; it was her life. She had a tender devotion to the Passion. Often she was bent in deep meditation over her crucifix; at times she was moved to tears.

Sister's death was a counterpart of her life--quiet, peaceful, holy. Weakening perceptibly, she was anointed on May 5th; on Sunday, May 13th, she dictated a note to her niece, saying, "You must not worry. I am well prepared and am ready to die." On Tuesday she quietly slipped away to her waiting Lord, for whom she had lived and died.

At the Solemn Requiem Mass sung Friday, May 18th, the Most Rev. Bishop McNamara presided. Father Gervase Brinkman officiated, assisted by Fathers Alphonse Coan and Benedict Pfeifer. Father Thomas O'Keefe was master of ceremonies; the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edwin V. Hoover was assistant at the throne. Burial was at Mount Olivet Cemetery.