



Sister Eva Schmitt

The feast of Our Lady's Visitation, July 2, 1935, brought very shocking news. Shortly before eight o'clock in the morning a telephone call informed Reverend Mother that Sister M. Eva Schmidt had been found dead in bed. Sister was stationed at St. Francis Xavier Mission, Chicago.

Sister Eva had not been feeling well the day before, but she had been up and around all day. However, she retired very early. Shortly before the regular retiring time, Sister Amata, the Superior, went in to see if Sister Eva wanted anything and also to find out how she was feeling. Sister Eva told her that she was feeling much better and felt she would be alright in the morning. However, Sister urged her not to get up for the first Mass nor to get their breakfast, saying that if she were really feeling better in the morning, she could be ready for the eight o'clock Mass. When she was not there for the morning exercises and the seven o'clock Mass, it was just naturally supposed that she had followed advice and stayed in bed. When the Sisters returned home from the seven o'clock Mass, Sister Henrietta who was staying at St. Francis Xavier's for the summer, went into Sister Eva's room to inquire how she felt. When she made no answer to her first inquiry, Sister Henrietta spoke to her in German, playfully chiding her for "playing possum." Still no response, Sister came closer to the bed intending to shake her to rouse her, but by this time she had sensed something queer, and like a flash it came to her that perhaps she was dead. She rushed out to call the other Sisters. It was only too true. As the parish bulletin recorded it, "Sister Eva was no more. Her kindly and gentle soul had departed during the night. Father Weidner was called as he was finished with his Mass, but he found she had been dead several hours and so could not anoint her. Dr. Wagner who was called said she must have died between twelve and three A.M. The exact time could not be determined. One of the Sisters heard Sister get up shortly after eleven o'clock. The sad news had to be broken to her sister, Sister M. Gertrude, at the Guardian Angel Home.

The remains were laid out in the reception room of the Sisters' Convent at St. Francis Xavier's. Because of the holiday, July 4, the funeral could not take place until July 5. On Friday morning, July 5, the funeral services were held at 9 o'clock. The Rev. Stanislaus Swikoski, CSV (Sister Eva's nephew,) was celebrant at the solemn Requiem Mass, assisted by the Rev. Michael Sesterbenn, assistant pastor at St. Boniface, Chicago, as deacon, and Rev. M. Weidner assistant pastor at St. Francis Xavier, as subdeacon. The Rev. John Liebreich, the pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church, preached the sermon. He pointed out particularly the great virtue of humility that Sister Eva practiced to such a high degree. There were about 62 of our Sisters present for the funeral Mass, as well as several Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, including Sister Eva's niece.

Sister Eva was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery. The Rev. M.P. Weidner recited the prayers at the grave.

At the time of her death Sister Eva was in the sixty-seventh year of her age and the forty-fourth of her religious life.