

SISTER M. DORITA, O.S.F.

July 6, 1963

She was almost ready for school again. She was taking a summer course at the College. She had even gone out to the pool. For Sister Dorita the long struggle back to health seemed just about won. The road to recovery had not been an easy one, but she was finally, so it seemed, on the way. And there was no one happier than Sister Dorita at the knowledge that in September she would once more be back in the classroom.

The thought of teaching again was uppermost in her mind. Mother Borromeo had assured her that she would be "out on mission" in the fall, and for Sister Dorita this was enough. The Obedience Card would come later; for the present there was summer school and the happy anticipation of teaching again.

When Mother came out to Our Lady of Angels on the afternoon of July 6th, Sister was "not feeling so good." "I'll come back later," Mother told Sister Constance. "I want to give her her Obedience, but I'll come back when she's feeling better."

But Sister did not get better. By Saturday evening the relapse was critical, and the doctor ordered her to the hospital. She protested at first. "I want to go to school on Monday!" But when Sister told her the doctor was concerned about her, she made no further objection, only remarking wistfully, "I wish I didn't have to go!"

Before she left O.L.A. she asked very frankly, "Am I going to die?" And when Sister Constance answered, "You're ready, aren't you, Sister?" Sister Dorita made her fiat: "Yes, I am, if God wants me." She may have suspected that He did want her. "Good-bye," she said to Sisters Constance and Roseanne. "Goodbye--and thank you for everything."

As the ambulance rushed through town, siren blowing, Sister asked Mother Immaculate, "Is there a fire somewhere?" It was a fast trip, with the right-of-way all the way, but somewhere between O.L.A. and St. Joseph's, Sister Dorita slipped home to the God Who "wanted" her. She was pronounced dead on arrival.

In Sister's room at Our Lady of Angels there is a cincture which she made earlier in the year for her nephew's ordination next February. "I want to finish this before summer school," she confided, "because then I'll be too busy, and after that I'm going to be teaching."

Sister Dorita never saw her Obedience Card. It's in her file now. And St. Raymond's will be just a little lonelier in September without her.

GOD GRANT HER REST ETERNAL!!

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