



Sister Wenceslaus Sladek

Sister M. Wenceslaus Sladek died at eleven o'clock on the night of May 15, 1935 at St. John's Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio. At some time during the night of May 12, Sister had a fall which proved fatal. She had been in ill health for some time, but was still on active duty. During this night she had been out of bed to get something and fell on the floor in her room. Just what caused her fall, whether she slipped or was dizzy, does not seem to be known. She herself made little of it and told the Sisters who had come to her assistance not to bother about it. In the morning, however, she had severe pain and Sister Winifred, the Superior, called the doctor. It was found that she had a broken hip, and she was removed at once to Saint John's Hospital. On Tuesday when the Sisters visited her, they found her delirious. Wednesday they found her about the same. However, on Wednesday evening at about 10:20 p. m. a telephone call informed Sister Winifred that Sister was very low. Sister Winifred and Sister Baptista rushed to the hospital at once, but arrived just a few minutes after Sister had passed away. Sister had been prepared for death by the Chaplain of the hospital.

Early on Thursday morning Sister Winifred called Joliet to inform Rev. Mother Thomasine of Sister's death. Rev. Mother arrived in Cleveland the same afternoon.

The solemn Requiem High Mass was celebrated in St. Procop Church on May 17. The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Peter Cerveny was celebrant, assisted by the Rev. Joseph Andel as deacon, and the Rev. Joseph Huzl as sub-deacon, both assistant pastors at St. Procop's. Monsignor Cerveny preached the funeral sermon in Bohemian. Besides the Sisters from St. Procop's Convent, ten Sisters from Holy Family were present for the funeral Mass, their Rev. Pastor having very graciously granted a free day in the school to give the Sisters the opportunity to attend.

The remains were brought to Chicago for burial in St. Adalbert's Cemetery. Sister M. Philomene, her sister, who had died in 1918, had been buried there. Since the Community had no burial plot in any cemetery in Cleveland, this was deemed the best plan to follow. Before leaving for Cleveland on Thursday morning, Mother Thomasine had telephoned to Sister Rose and Sister Nazaria to commission them to make complete arrangements for Sister's burial in St. Adalbert's Cemetery, including calling the houses in Chicago to have as many Sisters present at the cemetery as could be arranged conveniently.

Reverend Mother Thomasine and Sister Winifred accompanied the corpse to Chicago, leaving Cleveland Friday night and arriving in Chicago on Saturday morning. The undertaker was at the station to meet the corpse and after the details of claiming the corpse were complete, the funeral proceeded on its way to the cemetery.

The Rev. Dominic Kotek, O.S.B. one of the assistant priests at Saint Procopius recited the prayers at the grave. A large number of the Sisters from the mission houses in Chicago were present for the burial.

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Chicago, Illinois

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