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Sister Lydia Steger

On August 1st, Sister M. Lydia, formerly Mary Steger of Mary Immaculate Parish, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, was called to her reward in the nineteenth year of her age and the fourth of her religious life. She died at the Sisters' residence in Johnstown, and had proved herself during her short life's period a humble and docile religious. She owed her pious training to her virtuous parents. Her mother died several years before the daughter entered the convent. Long before the child was old enough to choose a state of life, she thought of nothing but becoming a religious. Her father was pleased to learn of his youngest child's inclination to that blessed state and he by no means discouraged it. He himself was a member of the great Seraphic Order for people living in the world.

When the Franciscan Sisters of Joliet, Illinois, took charge of St. Stephen's School in 1895 she and a companion of hers, Mary Schnell, made the acquaintance of the newly arrived Sisters and both expressed their desire to enter the community at Joliet. They were admitted as postulants the following year and when the time of probation had expired both were received into the novitiate and two years later, to their temporary vows. At the time of her death Sister Lydia ardently requested the privilege of being permitted to pronounce her perpetual vows. The Mother Superior wrote to the pastor of St. Stephen's, Rev. J. Martvon, asking him to see that the Sister's request be granted. Father asked and obtained from his bishop the faculties to receive her vows. The measure of her happiness was now filled to the brim as she was permitted to perform the most solemn act of her life just before she crossed the threshold of eternity to receive the reward of the faithful servants of the Divine Master. Her remains were interred in the German Cemetery at Johnstown, Pennsylvania.