

310. Sister M. Felicia Stegmaier
February 22, 1951

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Sister M. Felicia Stegmaier

Word was received Thursday, February 22nd, that our Sister M. Felicia, ill at St. Anthony's Hospital, Chicago, had passed away suddenly at 12:05 p.m. Sister had been rushed to St. Anthony's February 5th seriously, even hopelessly, ill, but seemed later to be improving. The news was therefore something of a shock. Sister had for the past three years been doctoring for hypertension and heart disease; more recently her condition was aggravated by carcinoma of the liver, and it was this complication which caused her death.

Though Sister Ludmilla attended Sister for a while, Sister M. Firmina, on the nursing staff of the hospital, was in charge of her the entire time. The Community has reason to be grateful to Sister Firmina for her kind and faithful care of our patient. Father Philip, OFM, attended to Sister's spiritual needs; he had annointed her on her arrival at ~~the~~ hospital and had said the prayers for the dying.

Sister's relatives wished her buried on the family lot in Chicago, and the funeral was consequently held at St. Boniface, her home parish church. She was laid out at St. Boniface convent, and many of her former fifth grade pupils whom she had taught from 1940 to 1948 called to pay their respects. The Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated by Rev. Vincent Nowakowski, pastor of St. Wenceslas; he was assisted by Rev. Robert A. Bobritzke and Rev. Anthony Michalik of St. Boniface. Present in the sanctuary were Rev. William T. Slattery of Ss. Peter and Paul Church, and Rev. John C. Straka of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Chicago. Burial was in St. Boniface Cemetery, Chicago, Father Bobritzke officiating. About fifty Sisters attended the funeral.

Sister Felicia had spent almost forty years in the classroom teaching children from kindergarten up to fifth grade. Of these, 27 years were spent in Chicago, chiefly at Englewood Sacred Heart, 6 years; St. Boniface, 8 years; Ss. Peter and Paul, 3 years; and St. Francis Xavier, 6 years. Among other placements, she spent 5 years at St. Peter's Mansfield, Ohio.

Sister's years in the classroom were successful. She had good control in school and was an effective teacher. She was also handy at sewing and at general and domestic work, and spent five years in appointments as cook, prefect of boys at Guardian Angel Home, and Motherhouse infirmarian. At her last mission, St. Wenceslas, Chicago, when Sister found herself with "no assigned duty," she simply assumed one. She took over the church work, and did it faithfully and well in spite of her failing health. Her final illness was marked by patient resignation and a spirit of prayer which was a manifest source of strength to her in trail.

Sister Felicia was the former Magdalene Stegmaier of Chicago. At her death she was in the 75th year of her age and the 46th of her religious life. She was survived by her blood sister in the Community -- Sister Marcella.