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Sister Cypriana Svaty

On September 16, 1899, Sister M. Cypriana, formerly Sophia Svaty, a native of Reichwaldace, Bez. Freistadt, Europe, died at St. Wenceslaus missionhouse, Chicago, in the thirty-third year of her age and the 8th of her religious life. She was one of the few who accepted the invitation of Rev. Joseph Molitor, pastor at St. Wenceslas Church, Chicago, to join a religious community in America, in order to instruct Bohemian children in Catechism and Bible History in their own language. Sister Cypriana was very fond of little children and while yet a novice, a primary class in the basement of St. Procop's School, Chicago, was assigned to her. There were upwards of one hundred sixty children enrolled. One day the Sister Superior unexpectedly entered the crowded school and remarked that there were too many children in the room, and consequently they were too restless and noisy. "Oh, no," said the Sister, "They are happy!"

Sister Cypriana was a good religious. A Sister who knew her well gives her this testimony: Sister Cypriana was exceptionally kind and obliging. Although naturally of a hasty temper and often giving way to her feelings, she readily asked pardon of those whom she thought her words might have offended. During the two years of her illness she was an example of patience. Once when her superior advised her to remain at home from Holy Mass on weekdays, because her cough might be an occasion of distraction, she knelt down before a large crucifix and said, "O dear Jesus! my superiors will not let me go to Holy Mass because I cough and disturb others in their devotion. I therefore beg of you to help me check it until I leave the church." She repeated this simple prayer every morning for a long time and she was never again troubled with the cough during the Holy Sacrifice.

On being informed that her days were drawing to an end she received the news with great joy and showed no signs of fear. Her death was calm and peaceful. Her remains were interred in the Bohemian Cemetery at Norwood, Illinois. Rev. Joseph Molitor officiating at the obsequies.