

SISTER M. AUGUSTINE WERCKMAN  
275. NOVEMBER 9, 1946

Sister M. Augustine was very proud to be born on the great feast of Mary Immaculate, December 8, 1864. In her notes she comments on the fact that she was born in St. Louis when the United States Civil War was nearing its end and the Congregation was near its beginning. She made no secret of her homesickness and did not remain at St. Francis Academy as a boarding student. In her younger days she had considered entering Sacred Heart Convent in St. Louis, but the pastor reminded her that her sister, now Sister Anastasia was in the Joliet community. As things go, when Josephine (Sister Augustine) did come to be a postulant in November, 1881, her sister had been sent out on mission to Kirkwood, MO. Throughout her homesick days, she remembered that her father would welcome her home, but he was happy she had chosen to become a Sister.

Josephine became Sister Augustine on March 25, 1882, and professed her First Vows on March 25, 1884. She lived to celebrate her Golden Jubilee in 1932 and her Diamond Jubilee in 1942. During all these years she ministered as an elementary and secondary teacher, as well as being the Principal and Superior of the Sisters on missions. In her final days, 1935 - 1946, Sister Augustine suffered patiently and helped however she could at the Motherhouse, spending many hours as Portress. She did note in her writings that she had been very impressed as a youngster when she first came to be a boarding student and Sister Angela answered the door with a very friendly face and greeting. This took her through a lifetime!

Sister Augustine had played the guitar at home as a child in St. Louis, but noted that her parents did not think it proper for a future Sister to take this instrument to the Convent. On many missions Sister played both the piano and the organ in school and church. She received an excellent education both in the Convent and at DePaul, Chicago, where she earned her degree in 1925.

Sister Augustine did much to encourage religious vocations. Brother John Leo Longan, her student at St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL, never forgot his teacher and continued to correspond with her until her death and then sent many Mass stipends for her repose.

Father Luke Golla, promoter of devotion to the Sacred Heart, had also been a student of Sister Augustine at Ss. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL. He corresponded with Sister until the time of her death and thanked her for all she had done to encourage him in his vocation to the priesthood and then in his special apostolate.

SISTER M. AUGUSTINE'S MISSION RECORD:

1882-1884	Ss. Peter & Paul, Chicago, IL	Grades 1-4
1884-1887	St. Francis Assisi, Chicago, IL	2-4
1887-1890	St. Boniface, Chicago, IL	5,6
1890-1894	Holy Family, Bayfield, WI	5-8
1894-1896	St. Louis, Washburn, WI	6-8
1898-1908	St. John, Joliet, IL	Principal, 6-8 Commercial Classes
1908-1911	St. Patrick, Galion, OH	Principal, 5-8
1911-1913	St. Joseph, Elgin, IL	6-8
1913-1914	Ss. Peter & Paul, Chicago, IL	Principal, 6-8
1914-1818	St. Joseph, Elgin, IL	Principal, 7,8 Commercial Classes
1919-1920	St. Francis deSales, Chicago, IL	" "
1921-1922	St. Francis deSales, Chicago, IL	" "
1920-1921	St. Michael, Sigel, IL	7,8
1922-1925	St. Procopius, Chicago, IL	Commercial High
1925-1931	St. Francis Assisi, Chicago, IL	Principal, 6
1931-1932	St. Mary, Columbus, OH	Principal Grades
1932-1935	St. Boniface, Chicago, IL	Principal, 8
1935-1946	St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL	No assigned duty