

March 27, 1934

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### Sister Vita Zeman

"The noblest gift of a human soul to God is the sacrifice of her life, and if I had a thousand lives to live again, I would cheerfully give them all to my God." This "Nunc Dimittis" of Sister M. Vita Zeman (printed in the "St. Francis Chimes" column of the College Interlude for March, 1934) had scarcely been pronounced when death came to claim the life which she had so nobly lived and generously sacrificed, and the close of which she trustingly resigned into the hands of God.

On Tuesday of Holy Week, March 27, 1934, shortly after 12:30 p.m. Sister Vita was called to her eternal reward in the sixty-fifth year of her age and the forty-second of her religious life. For years before her death Sister Vita had been in ill health due to a cancer of the stomach. For the last four years of her life she had not been assigned to active duty in the classroom. She remained, however, at St. Procopius, Chicago (she had been teaching there for many years) and devoted her time to compiling and editing graded readers for teaching the Czech language. This was a project in which she was intensely interested. The primer and the first and second readers of this series had come from the press at different times within these several years. The compilation of the third reader was completed shortly before her condition forced her to give up all work. She did not have the pleasure of knowing that this third reader had been accepted by the publisher. This news came a few days after her death.

Sister had been brought to the Infirmary of the Motherhouse on Dec. 11, 1933. During the remaining months until her death on March 27, she suffered intensely, but withal was very cheerful, patient and considerate of others. Because of the Holy Week services, the Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated on Wednesday, March 28. Rev. Bede Carberry, O.F.M. Chaplain of Saint Francis Convent, celebrated the Mass, assisted by Rev. George Kuzma, assistant pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Joliet, and Rev. Jesus Carrion, O.F.M.

After Mass the remains were taken to the Calvary Chapel to await burial on Holy Thursday afternoon. The burial services were conducted at 2 o'clock Holy Thursday afternoon by Rt. Rev. Procop Neuzil, O.S.F., Prior of St. Procopius Abbey, Lisle, Illinois. The following Benedictine Fathers were also at the funeral: Very Rev. Cosmas Vesely, Rev. Joseph Chvatal, Rev. Francis Sindelar, Rev. Ambrose Ondrak, Rev. Dominic Kotek, Rev. Clement Hrdlicka, Rev. Ernest Zizka, Rev. Raymond Koman.