

SISTER M. PIUS FOLEY  
DATE OF DEATH: MARCH 17, 1880  
DATE OF BIRTH: MAY 31. 1859

NUMBER 8

On the 17th of March, 1880, Sister M. Pius, formerly Mary Foley of Memphis, Tennessee, died of consumption at the Motherhouse in the 22nd year of her age and the 6th of her religious life. In 1873 she and her sister, Bridget, both intelligent students, entered St. Francis Academy at Joliet as boarding pupils. In December of the following year the older, Mary, was admitted as a novice into the community. Having for several years been one of the most capable and successful teachers in parochial schools, she was recalled to the convent home at Joliet in 1877-78 to join some of her colleagues in continuing the academic course of studies, especially higher mathematics in order to prepare herself for her future position as one of the faculty in St. Francis Academy, in which, as we have already mentioned, some vacancies had been occasioned on account of the new foundation at Rochester, Minnesota, in that year.

Sister Pius was possessed of many fine traits that characterize a good teacher and religious, among these her genuine charity. She always had a sympathetic heart for those that were in distress, whether through their own fault or otherwise. During the time that she was engaged in the Academy, a diphtheria epidemic broke out among the boarding pupils. Sister Pius cared for the stricken with the tenderness of a mother until they had recovered.

She was not of a melancholy disposition, yet, when frivolous talk was indulged in during recreation, she could not forbear saying: "Let us talk something sensible." A sister, who had been several years her elder in religion, once remarked that she had learnt many a wise lesson from this young religious.