



Sister Arsenia Amberg

For days the Angel of Death had been hovering over the infirmary in the Convent, standing by, as it were, watching and waiting until good Sister M. Arsenia had drained the chalice of suffering to the very dregs. And then, on Tuesday morning, January 26, just shortly after Holy Mass had been offered, God bade that same Angel to lead her Home, to bring her to Him Whom she had served so faithfully, so conscientiously so tirelessly, so religiously during the long years she had been dedicated to Him, her God, in the religious life. The toll of the convent bell checked the completion of this month's Chimes as the paper could not go to press without giving a tribute to our dear departed one.

Yes, Sister Arsenia has gone Home. Never of this world, although in it, she was daily, yea hourly preparing for the loving "Homecoming" that was hers on January 26. Conscious to the last, she was praying continually. She loved to have those who were with her repeat again and again the aspiration, "Sacred Heart of Jesus, I trust in Thee," and those of the Sisters who were privileged to be with her during those last days said that during every waking moment she was breathing a prayer and longing to be united to her God.

Sister was a Diamond Jubilarian at the time of her death. She spent sixty long years in the Master's service. She gave Him the greater portion of her life, for she was born on July 2, 1848, and received the Holy Habit of the Order of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate on July 8, 1871. In July, 1931 she was the only surviving member of the group of nine who had been admitted as members of the Community during the year 1871.

Of Sister M. Arsenia one might truly say died in active service, even though she was already so advanced in years. One of the Sisters some ago expressed surprise to see her making her rosaries during her illness. To this Sister responded in a manner that surely caused her joy this morning. "But why be idle? Will it lighten my suffering to confine myself to my room without doing anything? I might as well be doing something." And thus the records show that even during this last year of her life the rosaries she chained and re-chained numbered in the hundreds.

Sister Arsenia spent a very active career in the Convent, and a very religious career. It seems her work was always such that she was ever particularly close to God and the things of God. She was sacristan for many, many years. Then, too, she nursed the sick during many a weary hour while she was infirmarian. Surely, many of those whose eyes she closed in death were there to welcome her Home.

The care of the garden and flowers was also a cherished occupation of Sister Arsenia. No one of the Sisters who kneels at the grotto of Our Lady

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can forget the years and years when Sister cared for the lovely blossoms that grow at her shrine as the summers repeat themselves. Not only at the grotto but at all the other garden shrines, there are shrubs and plants that will continue to live as a lasting monument to tell of the devoted service which one of God's chosen souls continued to render Him for many long years, so that those who are still here may again re-echo that beautiful thought: "It may be hard to live as a good religious, but oh, it is so sweet to die."

Sister Arsenia's home was in St. Louis. She is survived only by a brother, Louis Amberg. Two of her sisters, both Ursuline nuns, preceded her in death. A number of nieces and nephews mourn her loss.

The funeral services were held on January 28 with the customary Solemn High at 9:00 o'clock. Reverend Eligius Weir, O.F.M. was celebrant, Reverend Alexius Bender, O.F.M. deacon, and Reverend Roman Hasenstab, O.F.M. sub-deacon.