

195. Sister Gentilis Berger
November 16, 1934

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Sister M. Gentilis Berger passed away at the Motherhouse at six o'clock the evening of November 16, 1934. At the time of her death she was in the seventy-ninth year of her age and the forty-third of her religious life.

Although Sister Gentilis had been in the infirmary of the Motherhouse for nearly a year, it was only about a week before she died that she became critically ill. In the early part of December, 1933, she had been taken sick at Guardian Angel Home where she was stationed. After a week or so when it was evident that she was making no improvement and that she required care such as was not possible at the Home, she was brought to the infirmary of the Motherhouse on December 14. During the months spent in the infirmary she was more or less confined to bed because of her very high blood pressure, which necessitated much rest and quiet.

At the beginning of her last illness Extreme Unction was administered and she was prepared for death, which she seemed to realize was imminent and to which she was resigned in a truly Christian and religious spirit. Sister Gentilis had spent many years of devoted labor and sacrifice in the Community, trying to do good for all with whom she came in contact. Although she was admitted to the Novitiate at an advanced age, her first entrance as a postulant dates back to July 5, 1874. (See Annals, Book I, page 201).

The funeral Mass for Sister Gentilis was sung on November 19 by her nephew, the Reverend Ferdinand Kalvelage, Pastor of St. Gertrude Parish in Franklin Park, Illinois. The Rev. Roman Hasenstab, O.F.M. and the Rev. Thomas Rust, O.F.M. chaplain at the convent assisted as deacon and subdeacon respectively. Father Kalvelage recited the prayers at the cemetery. She was buried in St. John's Cemetery, Joliet.

Sister Gentilis was an aunt to Sister Mildred Kalvelage - her mother's sister.