



Sister Euphrasia Burns

Early in the year on February 7, 1893, Sister M. Euphrasia formerly Lucy Burns of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, died at the Motherhouse in the twenty-ninth year of her age and the twelfth of her religious life. She had attended our sisters' school, St. Patrick's in Eau Claire, and was a good child, gifted with a rare intellect, so that the Sisters had reason to congratulate themselves when they discovered that she had a vocation for the religious life and asked to be received as a postulant. Being the only child left at home with her widowed mother, it required a great sacrifice from both the mother and the child to part from one another. After she had spent a few very happy years in the convent, this young sister was to prove herself a true spouse of Christ by being subjected to severe temptations. These were the more dangerous since they came from her own beloved mother, who, having married again, now tried to induce her daughter to abandon the religious state and return with her to the world in order to enjoy the comforts of life which the home now offered. Sister Euphrasia was at the time engaged at St. Agnes' School in Ashland, Wisconsin. During the night following the first interview with her mother, she arose to take counsel with her superior for, although she was much attached to her mother according to the flesh, she loved her spiritual mother the pious and conscientious Sister Ignatius Raigan still more. She knelt by her bedside and told her all. The next morning mother and daughter again met in the parlor. The sister superior was also present. Sister Euphrasia bravely fought the good fight and her mother never after molested her, but loved and respected her the more for having remained steadfast in her good resolutions.

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Besides having taught in several of our parochial schools, Sister Euphrasia was also engaged at St. Francis Academy in Joliet, and for some time at St. Mary's Institute for Indian Girls at Bayfield, Wisconsin. A good religious and a zealous teacher she was beloved by all who learnt to know her.