

228. Sister Rita Eckstein
November 29, 1938

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Sister Rita Eckstein

Sister M. Rita Eckstein died at St. Joseph Hospital, Joliet, November 29, 1938, in the fifty-fourth year of her age and the thirty-fourth of her religious life. She was the former Anna Eckstein of St. Mary's parish, Columbus, daughter of Karl Eckstein and Maria Birkenbach.

The funeral services were held in the chapel of the Motherhouse on December 2, at 8:30 o'clock. The chaplain, Rev. Thomas Rust, OFM, was celebrant of the Solemn Mass. Rev. F.J. Brummel, pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Elgin, was deacon and Rev. Wolfgang Kraus, OFM, chaplain at Guardian Angel Home was subdeacon. Father Thomas Rust officiated at the burial in St. John's Cemetery, Joliet.

Sister Rita was the sister of Sister Lucille and Sister Bertille. Sister M. Bernardine Birkenbach who died in March, 1881, was an aunt - her mother's sister. Sister Rita's last mission assignment was St. Joseph's, Elgin, where she had taught for many successive years. She had come to the motherhouse in April, 1937 after having undergone surgery at St. Joseph's Hospital, Elgin. She had been given treatments at St. Joseph's Hospital, Freeport, in the course of time. Within the summer of 1938 she was at St. Joseph's Hospital, Joliet, for surgery. She returned to the Motherhouse Infirmary from the hospital on September 17th, but was taken back to the hospital on October 2. She remained there until her death on November 29th.

Sister Rita had expressed a wish that Father Brummel and the Sisters at St. Joseph's, Elgin, should be present for her funeral. Four of the Sisters went with Father Brummel. Sister Mauritia and Corilda served as honorary pallbearers.