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Sister Borgia Emmerick

Sister M. Francis Borgia, formerly Mary E. Emmerich of Quincy, Illinois, died at the Motherhouse at Joliet on March 8, 1903, in the fifty-third year of her age and the twenty-seventh of her religious life. Sister Borgia highly appreciated convent life and always endeavored to acquire the virtues indispensable for living in community, especially that of sisterly love. She was an obedient subject and a condescending superior. She could not endure duplicity, was straightforward in her dealings and wished to be treated likewise by others. She harbored no ill feelings toward anyone who might offend her and readily asked pardon of those whom she might have offended. She once was asked why she always begged pardon of the Mother Superior before entering the summer retreats. She replied that it had been her custom to do so since she entered religion and she felt she could not make a good retreat if she neglected to perform this act. Nearly all her religious life was spent in parochial school work where she labored faithfully and with success.

In the early part of 1903 Sister Borgia's health began to decline and the prospects for her improvement being poor, she was transferred from St. Wenceslas' missionhouse, where for some time she had been superior, to the Motherhouse in Joliet, where she died two weeks later. Never did death come so unexpectedly to a Sister who had been in charge as superior, as happened in her case. Her accounts and various other matters were waiting for adjustment, all these things causing much worry to the good Sister before she died.