

SISTER M. COLETTA FOLTZ

230. APRIL 6, 1939

Sister M. Coletta Foltz died at the Motherhouse on Holy Thursday, at 5:20 a.m. She was in her 78th year and her 42nd year in the community. The cause of death included chronic myocarditis, bronchial asthma for many years, carcinoma of the left breast for six months and acute cardiac dilation for three days. Due to Holy Week her remains were brought to the Chapel for absolution on Holy Saturday at 8:30 a.m., and then burial in St. John Cemetery, Joliet. A Requiem High Mass was sung for Sister Coletta on Monday, April 17, 1939, at 6:30 a.m.

Sister Coletta came to the Community from Freeport, IL, where she had met our Sisters who taught at St. Joseph School. She had also become acquainted with the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart who had St. Joseph Hospital in Freeport. Sister Coletta joined our community a few months after her companion, Hermidia Marcouiller, a boarder from the Cross Village, MI, community. Neither of them were interested in nursing. Sister Coletta answered the questionnaire concerning her 20 years in the Cross Village, MI, community: "the community was dispersed." Sister Coletta became a postulant on August 18, 1897, at the age of 35. She began her novitiate on March 25, 1898, and professed First Vows on August 15, 1900, and Final Vows six years later.

Mary Foltz was born in Buedinger, Germany, her mother, Mary Anna Felicitas Riplinger's birthplace, her father, Frederic Foltz, was born in Wellinger, Germany. An entry in our Congregation Annals gives this account: "During the latter part of 1915 a letter was received from a Franciscan Friar in Petoskey, MI, by Sister Coletta. It contained information that her aged mother, Mrs. Mary Anna Felicitas Riplinger Foltz who lived in that town had become very feeble. The Friar expressed the wish that Sister Coletta might come to care for her mother, if such a thing could be arranged, since the ever increasing debility along with her natural eccentricity proved to a more or less great obstacle to the engaging of a person to care for her. Besides, she would not consent to make her home with either of her sons, one of whom had settled down on a farm some miles distant from church. This family would gladly have taken care of the mother, but she having lived alone for many years, refused to go there, her strongest objection being the distance from church."

"The superior permitted Sister Coletta to visit her mother and ascertain how matters might be satisfactorily arranged. On reaching home Sister found her mother really quite ill and feeble. After some days of proper care, the mother's condition had so far improved that means could be

considered and proposed by which the disagreeable situation might be ameliorated, but not one proposal was acceptable to her. Then the Rev. Father on his part tried to persuade Sister Coletta to remain there with a companion to care for the mother, meanwhile living a convent life, promising to attend to their spiritual wants. Sister Coletta felt that she could not accept this proposal without permission, besides there seemed little prospects of the authorities yielding to this plan. The only thing to be done at the time, was to wait until the invalid would improve physically, when an appeal might be made again; under existing conditions she could by no means be left to herself again. After about three weeks, when the mother had considerably improved, her daughter suggested that she might accompany her to Joliet, where with the necessary permission, she could devote herself entirely to her care and where all her spiritual needs could be fully satisfied; this proposition the old lady finally accepted. Soon after they left for Joliet, arriving January 8, 1916. A private room on the Infirmary floor was arranged for the mother, and very soon she was contented and happy and felt quite at home. Sister Coletta was ever at hand to attend to her every want. About three weeks after her arrival here, the mother became hopelessly ill, and a week later, on February 8, 1916, she departed this life, fortified with the rites of the church, in the 76th year of her age. She was buried two days later in St. John Cemetery, Joliet, IL, with the Sisters."

Sister Coletta's years in the community were devoted to the following:

1899-00 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL: Sacristan
1900-02 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL: Prefect of small girls
1902-07 St. Francis Assisi, Chicago, IL: Sacristan
1907-08 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL: Sacristan
1908-12 St. Francis Assisi, Chicago, IL: Sacristan
1912-13 GuardianAngel Home, Joliet, IL: Prefect of small boys
1913-15 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL: Sacristan
1915-19 St. Mary, Columbus, OH: Sacristan
1919-20 St. Francis Assisi, Chicago, IL: Sacristan
1920-21 St. Clement, Chicago, IL: Sacristan
1921-34 GuardianAngel Home, Joliet, IL: Prefect of small boys
1934-39 St. Francis Convent Infirmary Assistant, Seamstress

Sister Coletta had spent a total of 62 years in religious life. Twenty with the Cross Village Community and 42 in our community. She and her companion from Cross Village, Sister Justina, worked in the Infirmary together for Sister Coletta's final five years. Ironically both of them had joined our community because the possibility of nursing was very remote.