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Sister M. Hugoline Franzen

Our dear Sister Hugoline Franzen of the fourth floor Infirmary slipped quietly away to God on Sunday afternoon, January 15, at 1:27 o'clock. She was the former Mary Franzen of St. Francis Assisi parish, Chicago, was eighty-seven years old and had lived in religion for sixty-two years. The immediate cause of her death was broncho-pneumonia, which she had contracted a week earlier, but she had been suffering from arteriosclerosis for the last twenty years and had been in the Infirmary the last five years. Sister was last anointed on January 8 by Father Gervase.

The funeral was held January 18, Bishop McNamara presiding at the Solemn Requiem Mass celebrated by Father Gervase. The body was laid to rest at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Joliet.

Sister Hugoline taught in the grades for forty years--from 1895 to 1935. Her chief missions were St. Mary's, Columbus, eight years; St. Joseph, Freeport, twelve years; Immaculate Conception, Rock Island, six years. At the latter mission she was also Superior and Principal. She served in this same capacity at Englewood for two years; Ss. Peter and Paul, Leonore, two years; and St. Joseph, Freeport, one year. After an illness in 1935-36, Sister did not return to the classroom, but was teacher of needlework at the Preparatory and Guardian Angel Home for two years.

In the spring of 1942 she was brought to the Infirmary, and the years thereafter she spent at the Motherhouse in quiet retirement and in prayer. Her rosary was almost constantly in her hands, and she circled it over and over. Saying a rosary was her favorite method of showing gratitude for anything that was done for her. "Thank you, Sister," she would say, "I'll pray a rosary for you." Her favorite ejaculation was, "My Jesus, pardon and mercy through the merits of Thy Sacred Wounds." Those words were among her last. Sister regularly practiced little acts of penance, such as kneeling without support. Up to the last year she would often quite simply and humbly take her luncheon on her knees.

This spirit of faith and love had carried over from a life-long practice of these virtues. The Sisters of the Congregation who had called her "teacher" liked to recall her devoted work in the classroom and the affectionate and effective training she gave her pupils. Their continued loyal friendship for Sister met with an equally loyal response.

It was perhaps Sister's biggest cross when those last years her eyesight began to fail, but she used it as a preparation for her going. Repeatedly she said. "I can't see to do any work. I wish the dear Lord would take me." And the dear Lord answered her yearning prayer. Her passing was as sweet and quiet as her life had been. No one doubts that her rest is with God.