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Funeral services for Mother M. Thomasine, former General Superior of the Congregation were held at the Motherhouse on February 13. Bishop Martin D. McNamara pontificated at the Solemn Requiem Mass. Rev. Alphonse Coan, OFM, delivered the sermon. (Copy available upon request) Burial took place at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Joliet.

Elizabeth Fryeska was born on November 16, 1876, in Jehlenez Kreis Tuchel, West Prussia, to Felix Fryeska and Marzianna Ruhnke. The family emigrated to the United States and settled in Chicago when Elizabeth was a little less than four years old. On January 12, 1895, she entered the postulancy of the Sisters of St. Francis, after having worked as a governess for several families in Chicago. Her novitiate began on July 2, 1895 and she was professed on August 2, 1897, with final vows on August 15, 1903. Mother Thomasine celebrated her Golden Jubilee on June 27, 1947, along with her classmates: Sister Hildegarde, Eulalia, Winifred, and Hubertine. Mother Thomasine's sister Eva, Sister Berchmans had entered the Congregation in 1888 and died with consumption in 1898. Other relatives include cousins: Sister Dorothy Matz, and her sisters, Sister Ernestine Matz and Sister Hilaria Matz, the two latter becoming the Foundresses with Sister Solana Leczny of the the Sisters of St. Francis of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in St. Louis, MO. Other cousins include: Sister Rayneria Korthals, Rev. John Sprengel, Rev. A.F. Korthals, and Rev. Charles Bartoscheck, CSSR.

Mother Thomasine was in the 74th year of her earthly life and the 55th of her religious life. Eulogies and condolences poured in from all over the United States upon her death. Memorial issues of the Interlude, the Marian, St. Mary's, Columbus, and numerous Church bulletins and Diocesan newspapers paid her special tribute.

Mother Thomasine was the major force behind the establishment and accreditation of the College of St. Francis. She served as the First President until 1938. The education of women held a high priority with her. She had received her Master of Arts degree from Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., on June 13, 1923. Sisters from many Congregations were enrolled at CSF due to the foresight of Mother Thomasine.

Mother Thomasine had served 18 years as General Superior when the General Chapter wanted to petition Rome for a fourth term. She was aware of her physical condition, cancer, and declined the request. The final years of her life she remained active until last year. She had completed the 1948 edition of the Community Manual of Prayers, The Ceremonial, and served as Director of Teacher Training for the Sisters.

Mother Thomasine will always be remembered as a great leader. The photographs of the 75th anniversary in 1940 depict this for posterity.