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Sister M. Verena Golla

Wednesday of Holy Week consolingly marked the close of Sister Verena's suffering when, just before midnight, she whispered her last prayer to the Crucified and yielded up her soul to God. This occurred in the Motherhouse infirmary, the date being April 1; the time, 11:50. Her death was caused by arterio sclerotic heart disease. Sister was fifty-five years of age and had been in religion thirty-six years.

Sister Verena suffered her first heart attack in 1944, but recuperated and was able to continue teaching until 1950. That year, in September, she had a severe seizure and was taken to the hospital for care. In December she was transferred to the Motherhouse infirmary, and the following February was taken to St. John Sanitarium in Milwaukee. There they were unable to help her appreciably, and late March Sister Constance went to Milwaukee to accompany Sister home. She was assigned to the infirmary, where she spent her last two years. Sister remained always a bit homesick for the classroom and was anxious to return to it, but there was no real hope of doing this. Though she seemingly improved from time to time, there were always further attacks and consequent retrograde. Her last days were difficult, but she remained patient and prayerful, finding much consolation in her crucifix. She was conscious throughout, and kept repeating the ejaculation, "My Jesus, mercy!"

Since Sister's funeral took place on Holy Saturday, the Requiem Mass had to be deferred until after Easter, but the permitted funeral services were held in the chapel of the Motherhouse at 10:30. The Office of the Dead recited in Community preceded the blessing of the corpse. The Most Rev. Martin D. McNamara, Bishop of Joliet, gave the last Absolution. Rev. Gervase Brinkman, OFM, and Rev. Benedict Pfeifer, OFM, were honorary deacon and subdeacon. Rev. Thomas O'Keefe was master of ceremonies. Among the clergy present in the sanctuary were the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Romeo Blanchette and Rt. Rev. Msgr. M.J. Butala.

Burial was made at Mount Olivet cemetery, Joliet, the prayers at the grave being led by Father Gervase.

Sister Verena, the former Rose Golla, entered the convent from Sts. Peter and Paul in September of 1915. During the thirty-two years she spent in the classroom she taught the fifth, sixth and seventh grades. She was stationed at nine different missions, remaining longest in Columbus, Mansfield and Chicago. Her last ten years were spent at St. Pascal's, Chicago. Sister was an excellent teacher and had from the first been successful in the classroom. She was gentle with the children and knew how to direct their activity and win their co-operation. Her object was not only to inform the mind, but to form the character of her pupils and her work does not cease at her passing.