

SISTER M. SECUNDA GOVEDNIK

448. NOVEMBER 8, 1968

Sister M. Secunda, formerly Mary Govednik, died on November 8, 1968 in St. Joseph Hospital, Joliet, IL, at 2:30 a.m. in her 79th year and the 61st of her religious life. The cause of death was arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease with acute cholecystitis. Funeral services were held on Monday, November 11, 1968, in Our Lady of Angels Chapel, at 10 a.m., with burial in St. Joseph Cemetery, Joliet, IL, at the request of the Govednik family.

Mary Govednik came to the community from St. Joseph Parish, Joliet, IL, on October 4, 1905. She was born in Joliet on December 10, 1889, to Anton and Barbara Slobodnik Govednik. Both parents were born in Europe.

On August 12, 1906, Mary began her Novitiate as Sister M. Secunda, then professed her First Vows on August 15, 1908, and her Final Vows on August 12, 1914. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from DePaul University, Chicago in 1929. Her Jubilees were the highlights of 1933, 1958, and 1968.

Sister Secunda's mission record included:

1907-08	St. Stephen, Streator, IL	Grade 4
1908-28	St. Joseph, Joliet, IL	Grades 4,5,7,8
1928-29	St. Wenceslas, Chicago, IL	Grades 7,8
1929-33	St. Peter, Mansfield, OH	English, Latin, Algebra
1933-39	St. Joseph, Joliet, IL	Superior and Principal
1939-40	St. Mary High School, Columbus, OH	History, English, Typing
	Sacred Heart, Englewood, IL	Grade 6
1940-42	St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA	Superior/Principal, Grade 8
1942-48	St. Joseph, Joliet, IL	Superior and Principal
1948-52	Sts. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL	Grade 8
1952-53	St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL	Grade 7
1953-66	St. Pascal, Chicago, IL	Grades 5,6
1966-68	St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL	Grade 5 (Mornings)

During World War II, under Sister Secunda's leadership St. Joseph School became nationally known for their patriotic projects, such as Red Cross, and purchase of an airplane (bomber).

Although Sister Secunda had prepared to teach during the school year beginning in September, 1968, she fell on the very first day of school while taking the children for opening Mass. Sister Rudolpha, her half-day teaching partner, missed her very much as did all the Sisters, teachers and children at St. Francis Xavier. Sister Leocrita from St. Boniface came over on September 17, Feast of the Stigmata of St. Francis, for a little visit. That evening Sister Secunda was taken home to Joliet.