

SISTER M. CORONA, O.S.F.

August 7, 1966

Those of us who did not know her in her heyday can never appreciate the true beauty and power of Sister Corona's voice -- though something of that artistry still lingered in the songs that echoed from her room at Our Lady of Angels. For in spite of her 86 years, Sister Corona went on singing -- a little less clear, no doubt, a little wavering perhaps -- but with beauty enough in her tones to suggest what that voice must have been in the days when it went soaring through the chapels, the churches where Obedience sent her in her long convent life.

That voice was stilled at 9:20 Sunday morning -- quite suddenly and apparently without fear. She was having breakfast at the time, and remarked to Sister Peter that "the cereal's too hot." Minutes later the heart attack occurred; there was the sudden change of expression that told the practiced eye that something was wrong. Breakfast was forgotten as Sister Peter hurriedly called for Father Angelo. And with Father praying at her side, Sister Corona slipped away.

In those last conscious moments she must have been pleased to see the familiar Franciscan habit and to know that a Franciscan priest was with her at the end. For as far as Sister Corona was concerned, the OFM's were in a league by themselves!

Not that others were unimportant. She had, for instance, unofficially canonized Father Burkley long ago -- "Saint Father Burkley" he was to her. Possibly she felt that it was only some unkind quirk of fate that prevented St. Mary's pastor from becoming a Son of Francis. But all things else being equal, to Sister Corona the Franciscan priests were "the best."

She had been losing ground gradually all summer, though she remained alert and welcomed the visits of her old friend of the years, Sister Eileen. But it was obvious that the way was now all downhill. And on the 27th of July she was anointed for the last time.

She hadn't been able to put on the "New Look" when the change-over was made in June, and that had bothered her. "When am I going to get my new veil?" she kept asking. Finally on August 4th she donned it, and for three memorable hours she wore it, marvelling, "How good it looks on me!"

When she came back to Our Lady of Angels the afternoon of August 7th, Sister Corona was wearing her new veil.

GOD GRANT HER REST ETERNAL!!

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