

SISTER M. BERNARDA JONIK

446. JULY 23, 1968

Sister M. Bernarda, formerly Mathilda Jonik, died on July 23, 1968, at 12:40 a.m., in her 88th year and the 71st of her religious life. The cause of death was carcinoma of the bladder. Funeral services were held at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, at 10 a.m. on July 25, with burial in Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL.

Mathilda was born on May 20, 1881, in Koenigschutte, Germany, to John and Mary Novak Jonik. She became a naturalized citizen of the United States through her father in 1890, since she was a minor. On August 20, 1896, she entered the postulancy from Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Chicago. She became Sister Bernarda on August 2, 1897, when she began her Novitiate. She professed her First Vows on August 15, 1899, and her Final Vows on August 12, 1905. She celebrated her Golden Jubilee in 1949, and Diamond Jubilee in 1959.

Four of her sisters became members of the community after her: Sister Tharsilla, who died in 1951, living sisters in age order are: Sisters Gerarda, Beata, Seraphia. A niece Sister Michael Marie is also a member of the community.

Sister Bernarda's Mission Record included: Grades:

1898-02 St. Francis Assisi, Chicago, IL		1,2
1902-11 Sacred Heart, Englewood, IL		1,2,3,4
1911-14 St. John the Baptist, Joliet, IL		1
1914-21 St. Joseph, Freeport, IL		1,2
1921-22 St. Michael, Sigel, IL		1,2,3
1922-23 Holy Family, Bayfield, WI		1,2
1923-31 St. Denis, Benton, MO	Organist	1,2,3,4
1931-33 St. John the Baptist, Joliet, IL		1
1933-36 St. Denis, Benton, MO	Organist	4,5,6
1936-38 Immaculate Conception, Kankakee, IL	Organist	1,2,3,4
1938-41 Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL		3,4
	St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL	Convalescng
1941-42 St. Mary Magdalene, Columbus, OH		3,4
1942-46 St. Bernard, Joliet, IL		3,4
1946-47 St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL		3
1947-49 Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chicago, IL		2
1949-51 St. Joseph, Elgin, IL		4,5
1951-55 Sts. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL		4
1955-59 St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL		3
1959-61 St. Michael, Brunswick, MI	General work	
1961-62 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL	Retired	

Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL
Sister Bernarda led a long and fruitful life in the community. In 1940 she experienced a miracle through the intercession of Father Joseph to which she testified. Along the way she used her artistic ability and left for us a history of the community in cartoons with rhyming captions.