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Sister M. Tharsilla Jonik

First to break the bond of five blood sisters in the Community, Sister M. Tharsilla Jonik died this evening at six o'clock at St. Joseph Hospital, death being due to carcinoma of the stomach. She was sixty years of age and had spent forty years in the congregation.

Sister's last illness dated from July of this year, when she was admitted to the fourth floor infirmary. Being taken critically ill with a bowel obstruction, she was admitted to St. Joseph Hospital on August 30th. Although she was able to return to the infirmary after two weeks, she had again to be consigned to the hospital on October 8th. Four days later she was anointed, her critical condition being obvious. She faced the end calmly and cheerfully and even with humor. She spoke frankly of her approaching death and made choice of her own pall-bearers. Her complete resignation was edifying.

The Solemn Requiem Mass in the Motherhouse chapel on October 29th was presided over by His excellency, the Most Rev. Martin D. McNamara, Rev. Gervase Brinkman, Father Alphonse Coan, O.F.M. Father Wilfred Cool, O.F.M. and Father Alphonse Coan, O.F.M., were deacon and subdeacon. Rev. Firmin Weber, O.F.M., was chaplain to the Bishop, and Rev. Thomas B. O'Keefe was master of ceremonies. The body was laid to rest at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Joliet, Father Gervase officiating at the grave.

Sister Tharsilla was an active, many-sided religious. She began her teaching career in the primary grades and spent more than twenty years in that department, chiefly at St. Peter's, Mansfield; Sacred Heart, Englewood; and Immaculate Conception and St. Mary Magdalene at Columbus. She met with good success in the classroom. She taught well and knew how to maintain discipline without harshness. Always somewhat delicate in health, her work was periodically interspersed with convalescent periods. Her energy, however, directed her to many activities. She was prefect, sacristan, portress, switchboard operator; She did art work, general work, domestic work. For three years she was superior and principal at St. Mary in Fairfield, Alabama. Here the underprivileged were a challenge to her, and she worked tirelessly to help the colored at that mission. Even after retiring from this work in 1948, she continued soliciting help for Alabama. Neither did she to the end lose her interest in her "dark friends."

Those surviving Sister Tharsilla are Sisters Bernarda, Gerarda, Seraphia and Beata, together with a niece, Sister Michael Marie.