

SISTER M. DAMIANA KONOPEK

288. AUGUST 4. 1948

Sister M. Damiana Konopek, formerly Frances, daughter of John and Katherine Schultz Konopek, originally of Kourjerowic, West Prussia, died at St. Joseph Hospital, Joliet, IL on Wednesday, August 4, 1948. The immediate cause of death was adenocarcinoma of the bladder. Sister Damiana had suffered from this condition for the last three years of her life.

Frances Konopek came as a postulant from St. John the Baptist Parish, Joliet, IL., on September 17, 1891. She entered the novitiate on February 25, 1892, as Sister Damiana. She professed her First Vows on July 24, 1894 and her Final Vows on August 2, 1897. Sister Damiana lived to celebrate her Golden Jubilee in 1944 and died in the 57th year of her religious life and the 73rd year of her age. Her birthday was January 10, 1876.

Sister Damiana served at the following missions:

1893-95	St. Boniface, Chicago, IL	Grade 1
1895-01	St. Stanislas, St. Louis, MO*	Grades 1,2
1901-08	St. Joseph, Freeport, IL	Grades 2,3
1908-09	St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL	Convelescing
1909-11	St. Francis deSales, Chicago, IL	Grades 4,5
1911-13	St. Wenceslas, Chicago, IL	Grade 5
1913-14	St. Francis deSales, Chicago, IL	Grade 5
	St. Francis Assisi, Chicago, IL	Grade 5
1914-17	Ss. Peter/Paul, Chicago, IL	Grades 4,5
1917-20	Holy Cross, Joliet, IL	Grades 4,5
1920-21	St. Wenceslas, Chicago, IL	Grades 4,5
1921-31	Holy Cross, Joliet, IL Superior	Grades 4,5,6,7
1931-48	St. Wenceslas, Chicago, IL	Grades 1-5

Serving as Sacristan, Superior, Principal during her time at St. Wenceslas, her final mission.

Rev. Francis Czarny, pastor of this parish was present in the Motherhouse Chapel for Sister Damiana's funeral.

* Sister Damiana was a member of the group of Sisters in St. Louis at the time Rev. Urban Stanowski formed his own community for the Polish speaking children. Sisters Damiana, Cyrilla, and Linus returned to Joliet, while Sisters Solana Leczny, Hilaria and Ernestine Matz became the Foundresses of the new community. Although this beginning is dated May 29, 1901, the final recognition of the Sisters of St. Francis of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, came much later.