

21. Sister Magdalen Leonhart
November 8, 1884

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Sister Magdalen Leonhart

On November eighth Sister Magdalen Leonhart of Portsmouth, Ohio died at the Motherhouse at Joliet in the twenty-sixth year of her age and the seventh of her religious life. From the time of her entrance into the convent she was employed in the culinary department in which she took much interest. While stationed at the Motherhouse from 1883 to 1884, she presided in the kitchen. This position she held until the latter part of October, 1884, when she was taken sick with typhoid fever. Several weeks before she was confined to bed she had been annoyed by a feeling of languor, the usual precursory symptom of typhoid fever. Having always enjoyed the blessing of good health and being a busy worker she did not realize her condition and remained at her post of duty until compelled to abandon it.

Sister Magdalen possessed a cheerful and tractable character. She excelled in preparing palatable dishes for the Community. In regard to order and cleanliness in the management of the kitchen she was a model and when obliged to defer one or other of her religious exercises, she was scrupulously exact in performing it at a later hour. These facts have been asserted by a Sister who, for months previous to Sister Magdalen's death was her constant associate in the kitchen. It was indeed fortunate for the good Sister that her life had been such a well regulated one, for shortly after entering the infirmary she became unconscious and remained in that state to her last breath. Well it was for her that she had heeded, as so many other fervent religious have done, the pious admonition of Thomas a' Kempis: "Do now all thou canst, for you know not when you are to die, and you know not what will befall you after death."