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337. Sister M. Praxedes Martini
July 30, 1955

Sister M. Praxedes Martini

A victim of the intense heat of the past week, Sister M. Praxedes Martini died Saturday morning, July 30, at 1:15 o'clock. She had suffered a heat stroke the preceding day.

Sister Praxedes was found unconscious on the floor Friday morning when Sister Miriam Edward, nurse, went to her room to bring her her breakfast because she had not appeared for Mass. She was taken to the infirmary and Dr. Bustin was called. He diagnosed her case as cerebral hemorrhage due to heat stroke; there was also a kidney complication and an arthritic condition. Her temperature was 104.4°, and extreme unction was administered, by Father Benedict Pfeifer, O.F.M. Sister was conscious during the ceremony. Later she was given a sedative preparatory to intravenous. Sister Constance, nurse, continued to sponge her against the fever, but with very poor results. At about seven o'clock she went into a coma, her temperature than being 107.6.

Rev. Mother Immaculate and a group of Sisters recited the prayers for the dying. Sister's temperature continued to mount. At about 11:30 it was 109.6°. Though she had struggled hard and had been difficult to control from the time they took her to the infirmary until the sedation took effect, she died quietly. Doctor Bustin thought she had had a convulsion when she was stricken. He also stated that he had wanted her to go to the hospital, but that she deferred going because she "had things to take care of first."

Funeral services were held in the Convent Chapel on Monday, August 1, and burial was made at Mount Olivet cemetery.

Sister Praxedes was the former Anna Martini of Chicago, At the time of her death she was in the sixty-sixth year of her age and the thirty-eighth of her religious life. She had started her work for the Community in 1918 as a teacher, and in 1930 was appointed to various grade schools in Illinois, She was a good teacher, thorough in her class work and effectible in directing her pupils, but in 1931, due to weakened health, she was relieved of teaching. From that time on she was stationed at the College, the Academy, and the Convent. From 1932 to 1937 she did part-time duty in the College library and at the information desk. From 1937 to 1941 she was bookkeeper at St. Francis Academy. Here she made a special effort on old accounts and was able to collect many bills from former students who could afford to pay. From 1945 to 1947 she was in charge of the College and Academy bookstore. Transferred to the Convent in 1947, she took charge of the motherhouse library and in 1950 became the Community agent for magazine subscriptions from missions; both these posts she filled until her death. In commercial dealings Sister gave true service to her patrons, exhibiting at the same time sound business sense.

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Sister Praxedes was skilled in needlework and gave a distinction to everything she made. It was a loved hobby of hers, and she specialized in rare and artistic types of fancy work, and her creations made worthy gifts for benefactors.

Sister's favorite devotion was that of the Sacred Heart. She never missed a chance to spread this devotion, and when the intention leaflets were temporarily discontinued at the Motherhouse, she went to considerable trouble to gather enough elsewhere that each Sister might have a copy.

Keen-eyed, alert, interested in others, Sister was often amused at life and affably shared her observations. It can well be said of her that she made her contribution to the Community work, prayer, and recreation. May she in Eternity happily find her place with our dear departed who rest in peace and joy with God.