



Sister M. Dorothy Matz

Our Sister M. Dorothy Matz, eighty-one years of age and a member of the Congregation for the past sixty-two years, died this evening, Sunday, October 19, at 5:15 at the Motherhouse.

Although Sister Dorothy had been in the Infirmary the past year following a heart attack last October, she had recovered sufficiently to follow the Community exercises the past several months and to take her meals in the refectory. A week ago Friday night she was stricken with cerebral hemorrhage while visiting in the parlor with two friends from Holy Cross parish. She was anointed on Sunday. The last response was won from her on Wednesday, her birthday, when she showed interest in her greeting cards. After this she continued to weaken.

Sister Dorothy came to the convent in 1888 from Chicago and was professed in 1891. She celebrated her golden jubilee in 1941, and her diamond in 1951. Her service to her Community was in the domestic realm. Thirty-one of her fifty-one years on mission were spent in Joliet, twenty-seven of which were at Holy Cross. She totaled nine years at Rock Island, Elgin, Siegel, Red Cliff, Bayfield and Cleveland, and eleven years in Chicago, her last mission here being St. Wenceslas, where she served from 1945 to 1951.

Though she suffered for twenty years from hypertension and chronic myocarditis, our loyal Sister Dorothy continued faithful to her work, which she performed with ease and good cheer. Through her final sickness Sister retained her sense of humor and continued a good entertainer, with a love of story telling. She was also earnestly prayerful, devoting half her day to saying rosaries. This, her favorite devotion, was connected with her love and veneration for Our Lady.

Sister Dorothy was a sister to Mother Hilaria and Mother Ernestine, both of whom left our Congregation in 1901, the year of the "St. Louis Separation," to establish the Sisters of St. Francis of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, with their motherhouse in St. Louis, Missouri. Sister Dorothy chose to remain in the Community she had entered. Sister was also a cousin to our departed Mother M. Thomasine and Sister M. Rayneria.

Funeral services for Sister Dorothy were held in the Convent chapel on Wednesday, October 22. The Most Rev. Martin D. McNamara presided at the Solemn Requiem Mass, which was celebrated by Rev. Gervase Brinkman, OFM. The Rev. Wilfred Cool, OFM, and Rev. Alphonse Coan, OFM, were deacon and subdeacon. Rt. Rev. Gregory Cloos was assistant at the throne. Rt. Rev. Msgr. John Sprengel of Chicago, Sister Dorothy's cousin, was present in the sanctuary.

Burial was made at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Joliet, Illinois. Rev. Gervase Brinkman officiated at the grave, assisted by Monsignor Sprengel.

Representing Mother Ernestine, now in retirement at Villa St. Joseph, Ferguson, Missouri, were Sister M. Humiliana and Sister M. Therese of the Convent of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. Louis. Brother John Joseph Jerome, S.P., another relative of Sister Dorothy's, also attended the funeral.