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Sister Cassilda Mayer

On the 26th of June, 1900, Sister M. Cassilda, formerly Catherine Mayer of Chicago died at the Motherhouse after a lingering illness caused by pneumonia. She was in the thirty-seventh year of her age and the twenty-first of her religious life. Residing in St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Chicago, her parents sent her as a boarder to St. Francis Academy at Joliet in September, 1875. Although she was the only daughter it was her mother's cherished hope and ambition that in due time her beloved child might choose to become a religious and join the Sisters at Joliet, with whom the family was so well acquainted. Yet the parents never urged their daughter to that state of life, on the contrary after she had made her desire to enter the sisterhood known to them, they took precautions to test her determination in the matter. During the last vacation she spent with her family in 1878 they afforded her various kinds of amusements, taking her with them to theatres, pleasure outings, etc. She stood the test bravely for none of these inducements to remain in the world had any effect on her. Soon after she returned to the convent and was admitted as a postulant the following September. During her teaching career she engaged in both parochial schools and St. Francis Academy. For some years before her death she was in charge of the postulants to whom she ever proved a kind and solicitous mistress and mother.