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Sister Evangelista O'Shea

On Sunday, December 6, 1936, Sister M. Evangelista O'Shea died at about 5:40 p.m. after a brief illness. Several days before her death she had contracted a severe cold. Sister Aloysia, the Superior of the Motherhouse, was much worried about her. She wanted Sister to go to the infirmary, but this did not appeal to Sister Evangelista. She thought she was not sick enough to be put to bed in the infirmary. On Saturday morning, however, she followed advice and remained in bed. During the morning she got up, but she was glad to return to bed. She was told not to try to get up for Mass on Sunday, but when the Community assembled for morning prayers, Sister Evangelista was there in her place. She must have felt weak or sick because she asked Sister Sigismund to take her to chapel and to kneel in the pew with her. She followed the Mass in its entirety and also received Holy Communion. The Sisters said she could scarcely make it back to her place from the Communion rail. It must have cost her supreme effort to remain for the Mass, but she managed to do so to the end of Mass. She returned to bed immediately. Sister Aloysia went into her room frequently during the day between the exercises of the monthly retreat. Sister Aloysia was with her when the bell was rung for supper. When she left, Sister was, to all appearances, quite the same. The Community was scarcely seated at supper when Sister Remigia who was waiting on Sister Evangelista came to call the Superior as Sister Evangelista was dying. This was only about five minutes after she had left her room. When the Superior reached there she saw that she was indeed dying. Father Thomas, the Chaplain, was sent for at once, but Sister had died before he reached her bedside, but he administered Extreme Unction. The doctor gave chronic myocarditic and acute cardiac dilatation as the cause of her death.

Sister Evangelista was in the seventy-ninth year of her age and the fifty-ninth of her religious life. She had been in the classroom for fifty-five years, and had maintained that in all those fifty-five years she had not missed even one day of school. She had never suffered any severe illness nor undergone an operation. She was a conscientious religious, devoted to duty and to her religious exercises, always so quiet and gracious in her ways.

The funeral Mass and burial was held on December 9. The Reverend Thomas Rust, O.F.M., was celebrant of the Requiem Mass. He was assisted by the Rev. Angelus Zwiesler, O.F.M. and the Rev. Cuthbert Malone, O.F.M. as deacon and subdeacon respectively. Sister Evangelista was laid to rest beside the other deceased members of the Community in St. John's Cemetery, Joliet.