



Sister Serene Ostermann

Sister Serene Ostermann died unexpectedly about 2:25 p. m. on April 20, 1934 at St. Joseph's Hospital, Joliet. Her death was caused by a cardiac embolism (ninth day post operative). On April 7 Sister Serene had undergone a major operation and had been in a critical condition for several days after the operation. After that she had improved slowly but steadily and during the morning of the day of her death seemed to be feeling better than she had at any time since the operation. The nurse noticed a sudden change in Sister and realizing that she was dying, the Chaplain of the hospital was summoned to administer Extreme Unction. Word was immediately sent to the Convent and Rev. Mother Thomasine and Sister Aloysia, Superior of the Motherhouse, were rushed to the hospital. Sister survived only a few minutes after their arrival.

The funeral services took place in the Convent chapel at 8:30 a.m. on April 23. Rev. Bede Carberry, O.F.M., the Chaplain, was celebrant of the Solemn Requiem Mass. Rev. Arnold Schwarz, O.F.M., was deacon; and Rev. Jesus Carrion, O.F.M., was subdeacon. Burial was in St. John's Cemetery, Joliet.

When the appointments were announced in the previous August, Sister Serene's assignment was for Guardian Angel Home - high school teacher and prefect of high school girls. Sister had been very successful in this work and it was with regret that the news of the impending operation was received at the Home. However, two doctors who had been consulted declared an operation imperative. Under the circumstances it was deemed best to have the operation performed at once. Little did anyone think that when Sister Serene left for the hospital on the morning of April 4 that she would never return.

Sister Clarissa who had been convalescing at the Motherhouse was sent to teach the high school classes in Sister Serene's place. Sister M. Hildegarde became the prefect of the high school group.