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Sister M. Amanda Prazak

On the eve of the Feast of Our Lady of Angels, our Sister Amanda Prazak left her earthly home and entered into eternity. Sister had for the past year been longing intensely "to go to heaven," and she always said "Maria" would take her there. Her departure at 11:05, the last hour before our great Franciscan Marian Feast, seemed a hope fulfilled.

Sister's last illness began with a coronary attack on April 2, 1954. She was taken to the infirmary, where for the last sixteen months of her life her condition was more or less critical, fluctuating between improvement and renewed attacks. At the last, internal hemorrhage caused her death--the doctor suspected a cancerous condition. She received the final anointing from Father Leonard Paskert, O.F.M., instructor in the Seraphic Institute. Sister, as the infirmarian put it, "was definitely a patient patient," one who was "living to die, but who always ended her wish with 'Whatever the Lord wills'". When death came, she was eighty years of age and had served God in religion for sixty years.

Funeral services were held in the chapel of the Motherhouse on August 4, the Most Rev. Bishop McNamara presiding. Burial was made at Mount Olivet.

All but three of Sister's long years of service were spent in Chicago and Joliet--in Chicago at St. Procopius, St. Ludmilla, Ss. Cyril and Methodius, St. Francis of Assisi, and St. Wenceslaus; in Joliet, at St. Joseph and the Motherhouse. Beginning in 1894 as a teacher, she was in charge of first grade for twenty years. In 1914 she took up domestic work, continuing in it until 1950 except for two years when she had the care of our aged Sister Barbara. The last five years she had no assigned duty at the Motherhouse, but helped with minor chores in kitchen and refectory.

Sister Amanda was a general favorite at the Motherhouse. Among the Sisters she will long be remembered for her gentle ways, her quaint sense of humor, her deep piety, and her patient and cheerful endurance in her last illness. She had a true perception of values and was interested in things of the spirit--in living on the higher plane and coming closer to God. Faithful to her Benedictine training, she loved the liturgy - and lived it. So zealous was she at St. Joseph's in rehearsing the Gregorian melodies, that the Sisters provided her with a toy piano, on which she accompanied herself as she went through her repertoire of selections. At the Motherhouse, the recitation of the Office and chant of the novices at Mass were a spiritual delight to her, for this was "the house of God and gate of Heaven."

The Sisters felt that Sister Amanda's habitual abode was very close to the gate of Heaven, and that the Angel of Death had not far to travel in bringing her soul to the throne of God.