

SISTER M. EVA PROCHASKA

260. JANUARY 8, 1945

Catherine Prochaska was born to Charles and Anna Narovec Prochaska on March 13, 1916, in Cleveland, OH. She came to the Congregation from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish on September 6, 1937. She became Sister M. Eva on August 12, 1938, then August 12, 1940, she professed her First Vows, and Final Vows three years later. Sister Eva's life in the community was brief. She was missioned at St. Mary, Columbus, OH, during 1940-43, and St. Joseph, Joliet.

The annals from St. Joseph Convent record: October 27, 1945, Today Sister M. Eva was taken to the Motherhouse for close observation and medical attention. Sister's health has been failing rapidly for several months. Then January 8, 1945: Our dear Sister M. Eva departed from this life at 7:40p.m. Her death was most beautiful and edifying as the saying is, "As you live so shall you die," may be truly spoken of this young and beautiful soul, who suffered martyrdom in her prolonged illness without uttering a complaint. May the angels who have woven her crown be her companions within the realms of heaven and bring her close to Jesus. May she rest in peace. For January 12, 1945: Mother Earth has received Sister's mortal remains today and the privileged Sisters, who escorted her were Sisters: Secunda, Marian, Engratia and Harriet.

THE MOTHERHOUSE ANNALS record on January 2, 1945: Sister Eva was anointed and taken to St. Joseph Hospital by Father Eligius.

January 3, 1945: Sister Eva operated successfully. Her sister, Sister Francis Clare, was called in from Chicago, Ss. Peter & Paul. Then January 7, 1945: Sister Eva took a sudden turn for the worse. Pulmonary embolism having set in. January 8, 1945: Sister Eva's condition became hourly worse. Her folks in Cleveland were notified. Sister was attended by Father Alphonse, the hospital chaplain, and later by Fr. Eligius. She died at 8:30p.m. On January 9, 1945: Fred Dames, the undertaker prepared Sister for the coffin and attended to all other arrangements at the cemetery. Five of Sister's sisters arrived from Cleveland and Sister Eligia, a cousin, from Chicago.

January 11: The funeral of Sister Eva took place from the convent chapel at 9a.m. The Office of the Dead had been said at 8:15 followed by a Solemn High Mass at which Father Eligius was celebrant. Father Constantine the pastor of St. John's was deacon and Father Alphonse the guardian was sub-deacon. Father George Kuzma of St. Joseph's Parish knelt in the sanctuary. The honorary pall bearers were: Sisters: Jeanne, Charitas, Marie Therese, Ludmilla, DePadua, Constance. The pallbearers who assisted Mr. Dames were: Messrs: Joseph Brakovich, Tony Soleski, John Bush, James Hunk, John Maynerich, William Busse, Tony Kochevar of St. Joseph's. Eight cars made up the cortege that followed the hearse and funeral car. Sister Francis Clare and her sisters left for Cleveland after the funeral.

Needless to say Sister Eva's death came as a surprise although she had been sick. Ordinarily a 28 year old in usually good health does recover. On January 2, an exploratory laparotomy was performed, but no information was made available concerning the findings. Sister Francis Clare, with all the Sisters, mourned the loss of Sister Eva.