

On January 6, 1911 Sister M. Helen, formerly Dorothy Rappal of St. John's Parish, Joliet, died at the Motherhouse in 58th year of her age and the 40th of her religious life. At Sister Helen's death it was remarked by the local superior that as the good Sister had in her lifetime not been accustomed to be waited on, so she in her last illness required but little attention from others, owing to the short duration of her confinement in bed and her seeming insensibility to any of the various wants that necessarily accompany a state of suffering.

It may be said that Sister Helen, from the time she entered the sisterhood, showed by her willingness to labor for its welfare that she truly loved the Community and regarded it as her home. We may add, which is not the least, that in her own simple way she devout and given to prayer. For a number of years she was subject to bodily afflictions which at intervals became very painful, nevertheless she continued taking the selfsame interest in her daily round of household duties, until finally she was smitten by pneumonia to which she succumbed.

One of her heartfelt longings during the last years was to see one or the other of her nieces who had been received as aspirants to the Community, eventually enter the Order as religious. At length finding that her days were numbered, she arranged with the Mother Superior, that her own name, Helen, be reserved for the one that might enter.

N.B. Sister Helen Rappal's nieces Rosalie and Dora Engels were the aspirants to whom she referred. Dora entered the Congregation and received her aunt's name, Sister Helen in 1914.

Ministry History:

1869-1870	St. Francis Assisi, Chicago, IL
1871-1875	St. Nicholas, Aurora, IL
	St. Mary, Memphis, TN in October, 1873
1875-1878	St. Mary, Oshkosh, WI
1879-1882	St. Joseph, La Pointe, WI
1882-1886	St. Francis Assisi, Chicago, IL
1886-1887	St. Procopius, Chicago, IL
1887-1888	St. Francis Assisi, Chicago, IL
1888-1894	St. Procopius, Chicago, IL
1894-1898	St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL
1898-1899	St. Boniface, Chicago, IL
1899-1905	St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL
1905-1906	St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL
1906-1907	St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL
1907-1908	Holy Cross, Joliet, IL
1908-1911	St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL
	died here January 6, 1911

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Sister Helen Rappal

On January 6, 1911, Sister M. Helen, formerly Dorothy Rappal, of St. John's Parish, Joliet, died at the Motherhouse in the fifty-eighth year of her age and the fortieth of her religious life. At Sister Helen's death it was remarked by the local superior that as the good Sister had in her lifetime not been accustomed to be waited on, so she in her last illness required but little attention from others, owing to the short duration of her confinement in bed and her seeming insensibility to any of the various wants that necessarily accompany a state of suffering.

It may be said that Sister Helen, from the time she entered the sisterhood, showed by her willingness to labor for its welfare that she truly loved the Community and regarded it as her home. We may add, which is not the least, that in her own simple way she was devout and given to prayer. For a number of years she was subject to body afflictions which at intervals became very painful, nevertheless she continued taking the selfsame interest in her daily round of household duties, until finally she was smitten by pneumonia to which she succumbed.

One of her heartfelt longings during the last years was to see one or the other of her two nieces who had been received as aspirants to the Community, eventually enter the Order as religious. At length finding that her days were numbered, she arranged with the Mother Superior, that her own name - Helen - be reserved for the one that might enter.