

April 21, 1917

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## Mother Lucy Raub

On April 21, 1917, it pleased the Lord to summon to her eternal reward His faithful servant, Mother Lucia Raub. Nearly forty-eight years of her life had she labored most arduously in the Master's vineyard and we may confidently hope that an abundance of merits had been gained for eternity.

Anxious to join the sisterhood at the age of fifteen, she was opposed in this design by her father who would not consent to her entering the convent until her eighteenth year. At length she prevailed upon her father to permit her to enter as aspirant, to which he finally consented. She at once availed herself of this permission, and soon proved herself to be a worthy candidate for the religious life. Besides she exhibited special traits in the art of training and educating God's dear little ones.

After her religious profession in 1872 Sister M. Lucia was put as superior and teacher on SS. Peter & Paul mission at Richland -- now Leonore Illinois. In September, 1879 at St. Joseph's School in Galion, Ohio, was accepted as a new field of labor, and Sister M. Lucia placed in charge of this house. In ? she was transferred to St. Procop's mission house, Chicago.

In 1881 the General Chapter elected her to the office of council member of the Congregation. Six years later, 1887, she was elected Mother General to succeed Mother M. Celestine Sontag, whose term of office had expired. She served two terms - six years -- in that capacity, being succeeded in office by Sister M. Angela Rosenberger. Though having been again elected as a member of the council, the office of Mistress of Novices was assigned to her, but

because of poor health she was obliged to resign after only a few months. The office of council member she held until the summer of 1911, truly a long and faithful service.

The foremost among the many noble traits of our dear Mother Lucia was her zeal for God's greater honor and glory. This her cherished sentiment was apparent in all her words and works. The "Guardian Angel Home" on Buell Avenue became a reality at this time, 1897, and Mother Lucia, who had been a strong advocate of this institution when its establishment was under discussion, was appointed its first Superior, the matron. Her devotedness to the cause of the inmates earned for her the title "Friend of Children," and her desire to promote the honor and glory of God, found here a fruitful field.

During the fourteen years she superintended and cared for the children with a mother's intuitive love; the most nauseous and irksome duties, the longest night watches with a neglected babe, were hers, sustained and urged on by the thought that through the exercise of mercy on God's neglected little ones, she could actively promote His greater honor and glory. She had found the way to the children's hearts and won their confidence, and her teachings and admonitions were readily accepted and heeded. Then when in company of her co-laborers, a favorite principle of hers often found expression which was "If only one mortal sin be avoided through the early training of and care for these forlorn little ones, all our labor will be amply rewarded." She continually strove to encourage the Sisters to be faithful in the service of the divine Friend of the children, to await in patience the fruit of their present labors. By prudent zeal and watchfulness many a great sin might not only now but also in later years be prevented, and what a great reward might they not expect on the day of the final reckoning!

Owing to the continually increasing precariousness of her health, Mother

Lucy spent the last years of her life, with few intermissions, in almost complete retirement, yet not without some employment. She alternately superintended or assisted in the children's nursery, in the kitchen, or wherever she was able to lend a helping hand, but most of her leisure time was devoted to needlework; in fact she was a pronounced enemy of sloth in any form.

Having frequently alluded in the Community annals to Mother Lucia's life and character, and having given a brief sketch of her religious career in this last record which is to honor her memory, we conclude by saying a few words about her death. On the very day on which symptoms of a serious illness overtook her, she had offered herself to supervise the smaller children of the "Home" while a number of the Sisters accompanied the larger ones to St. Francis School, Chicago, to attend the annual entertainment given there by the pupils. After their departure she suddenly experienced a menacing chill which obliged her to go to bed. A physician was summoned at once who pronounced her ailment an acute attack of erysipelas. She suffered intensely during this illness which lasted about ten days. She was duly prepared for her departure from this world by the pious reception of Extreme Unction and comforted by the blessings and rites of our Holy Church. Her last request was to be removed from the Guardian Angel Home to the Motherhouse. There she expired shortly after with entire resignation to God's Holy Will. Accessible and considerate as she had been to all during her life we may hope that the Father of Mercies was considerate in her regard, and wiped out all the debt which stood against her at her death.

In person, Mother Lucia was short of stature, reaching only four feet, eight inches, and heavy of body; she had brown eyes which needed the aid of strong spectacles because of near-sightedness; her complexion was ruddy, and the roundness of her face gave her the appearance of a person in full vigor of life even in her later days.