

SISTER M. VALERIA REEB

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When Sister Valeria was preparing to celebrate her Golden Jubilee in 1936 the following article appeared in the MARIAN, St. Mary's High School paper in Columbus, OH.:

Sister M. Valeria, the beloved principal of St. Mary for the past five years will, with a solemn High Mass on April 14, celebrate her golden jubilee marking fifty years of activity in the community of the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate, Joliet, Illinois. This is not a public celebration. The usual celebration at the Motherhouse in Joliet will take place in June.

DAUGHTER OF THE PARISH

A daughter of the parish and a graduate of the grade school, Sister Valeria was baptized, made her First Communion and was confirmed at St. Mary. Her aged mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Reeb, is still living in her home at 610 City Park Avenue and though 94 years old still makes her way to daily Mass.

One of over fifty who have entered the community from Columbus, Sister left this city for Joliet on Christmas Day, 1882. Two years later in July of 1884, she received the Franciscan habit and in August, 1886, just fifty years ago, she made her first profession. Sister Valeria has received both her Bachelor and Master Degrees in Science and a Doctor of Philosophy (from DePaul University, Chicago.)

Educational Interests

Always interested in the field of education, Sister Valeria has spent fifty years of her life furthering Catholic education in various fields. St. Joseph, Freeport, IL, was the starting point of her teaching career. During the next thirty-five years she taught at St. John, Joliet; St. Boniface Chicago, St. Mary, Columbus, and Sacred Heart, Englewood, IL. From 1909-1919 she was superior at St. John, Joliet, IL.

In 1921 Sister was made school supervisor and served in that position until 1925. It was then that she endeared herself to the many teachers and students with whom she came in contact.

Her helpful advice and loving ways were a source of inspiration to her numerous charges. Sister retains some vivid impressions of unusual happenings during her travels and many are the interesting anecdotes she relates of her experiences.

St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, received Sister Valeria as successor to Mother M. Thomasine in 1925. Here she performed the duties of both superior and principal until she came to St. Mary in 1931.

For four years after coming to St. Mary, Sister Valeria was principal of both the grade and high school. Class '35 was the first graduating class to be four years under her

supervision. This year she has been principal of the high school alone. Sister M. Englebort having assumed the position of St. Mary Grade School.

The undertaking which has been the most dear to Sister Valeria since coming to St. Mary is the high school band which she organized in 1931. Through her efforts, it has risen from quite a small concern to become an organization of forty members.

She is especially proud of the fact, and enjoys telling of the fifty or more of her former students who have entered the priesthood and the large number of girls who have become religious.

Sister will celebrate her real jubilee at St. Francis sometime in June along with Sister M. Ottilia, Mistress of Novices and Sister M. Aloysia, Superior of St. Francis Convent.

Ten years after this article was published Sister Valeria celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 1946. With the closing of the school year in 1946, Sister Valeria came to Joliet and spent the last year of her life as receptionist in the College of St. Francis Administration Building. She died in her 80th year. Sister M. Leocadia is her natural sister.

MISSION RECORD:

St. Joseph, Freeport, IL	1884	Grades 1,2,3
St. John, Joliet, IL	1885-1891	" 1,2,3,4,5,6,7
St. Boniface, Chicago, IL	1891-1908	" 7,8
St. John, Joliet, IL	1908-1919	Commercial class
St. Mary, Columbus, OH	1919-1920	" "
Sacred Heart, Englewood, IL	1920-1921	" "
St. Francis Convent	1921-1925	Community School Supervisor
St. Francis Academy	1925-1931	Superior and Principal
St. Mary, Columbus, OH	1931-1946	Superior and Principal High School