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Sister Adalberta Schapps

With the near approach of the feast of Christmas the Divine Infant seemed, as it were, to stretch forth His Hands to choose His own Christmas gift from the Community, and sent His messenger Death to claim the gift. And so when the immediate preparations for the feast were at their height, the Community suddenly paused and stared into the face of Death who had come so unexpectedly into their midst to summon one of them to spend Christmas in eternity.

Sister M. Adalberta, the Community School Supervisor, passed away at St. Joseph's Hospital, Ashland, Wisconsin, at eight o'clock in the morning of December 24, 1934. A telephone call from the hospital in Ashland notified Mother Thomasine that Sister Adalberta was very low. This call came Sunday morning, December 23. It was shocking news as the previous reports had been to the effect that Sister was doing as well as could be expected after the operation. Reverend Mother sent Sister Faustina and Sister Mercedes to Ashland the same afternoon, but before they reached there on the following morning, Sister Adalberta had died. Mother Alexander and one or the other Sister from Bayfield were with her. She had been prepared for death on the previous day. At the time of her death she was in the sixty-fourth year of her age and the forty-fifth of her religious life. The death certificate stated her death was due to general peritonitis.

When the Teachers' Institute, held at St. Cyril and Methodius School, Chicago, on November 12 was over, Sister Adalberta returned to Joliet, and during the days before and after the Thanksgiving recess, she had visited the Joliet schools and several other outlying schools. Sister's health, however, was not good, and Sister had obtained permission to consult Dr. W. J. Tucker of Ashland. She had undergone a major operation early in the previous spring and while she had improved, still there was something not quite right. She had confidence in Dr. Tucker and planned on consulting him when she visited the schools in Bayfield and Red Cliff. She had requested Mother Alexander to accompany her so as to be with her for the doctor's examination. Accordingly they left Joliet for Bayfield on December 9. Sister Adalberta visited the two schools - Holy Family in Bayfield and St. Francis Assisi in Red Cliff. In the meantime she had seen Doctor Tucker who advised an operation. Arrangements were made and the operation was performed on December 18. Apparently, Sister was doing well and Mother Alexander had arranged plans to leave for Joliet with Sister Alma on Sunday afternoon, December 23. The change in Sister Adalberta's condition changed these plans.

Arrangements were made to have the remains brought to Joliet. Mother Alexander, Sister Faustina, Sister Mercedes, and Sister Alma accompanied the corpse to Joliet, leaving Bayfield about 5 o'clock on Christmas evening. Mr. G. H. Wartman of Ashland, Undertaker, took care of the remains. Mother

Thomasine had arranged with Mr. Fred Dames to meet the corpse in Chicago on the morning of December 26, to bring the remains to the Convent. The funeral services were held from the chapel of the Motherhouse at 8:30 a. m. December 27.

Rev. Thomas Rust, O.F.M., the chaplain, was celebrant of the solemn Requiem Mass. Rev. Andrew Stutzke, assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Parish, Englewood (Sister Adalberta had been superior and teacher there at two different times) was deacon. Rev. Eligius Weir O.F.M. was subdeacon of the Mass. Two Carmelite Fathers from Catholic High School, Joliet, were present in the sanctuary.

Burial was made in St. John's Cemetery, Joliet.