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Sister M. Martha Schoemer

Our Sister Martha, the former Anna Schoemer of Chicago, passed quietly to the Lord at 11:15 Friday night, November 20, 1953, following a brief illness. Sister had been brought from the Guardian Angel Home to Third Floor Infirmary on Tuesday of this week. They supposed at the Home that she had contracted pneumonia, but her trouble was really caused by a heart condition. She came to the infirmary in a jovial mood, and received visitors, both Sisters and externs, cordially. She was, however, gravely ill, and Doctor Brisey was called. On Thursday, growing worse, she was anointed. On Friday she had considerable difficulty in breathing and that night took a decided turn for the worse. The end came in less than two hours.

Sister was in the eighty-fourth year of her age and sixty-sixth of her religious life. Myocardial degeneration due to arteriosclerosis and hypertension caused her death.

Sister Martha had given long and devoted service to her Community. For twenty years she did domestic work on various missions, chiefly in Chicago, Columbus, Cleveland, Freeport, and Streator. The last thirty-five years she was seamstress, serving at the Convent, Academy, College, and Guardian Angel Home - from eight to ten years at each house.

Though Sister Martha lived long, she never grew old. She was young in spirit, sturdy in body, ready in judgment. Sickness was in the end making inroads, but Sister remained active, seemingly strong and capable, working with her usual good humor. Sister was best known as a seamstress. With her sewing was an art. Delicate aprons and fancy work of all kinds took form under her skilled fingers. A real tailoress, she would turn out a flawless garment. But whether a piece was new or old, Sister would work at it with the same loving care. She seemed to take as much pleasure in remodeling and patching worn clothing as she did making new ones. Many a Sister, many a boy and girl at the Home knew the magic she worked with cloth and shears and needle.

Always appreciating any kindness done to her, Sister was unfailingly kind to others. Of her many strong virtues this was her most characteristic one--she was kindred to young and old alike. At the close of her last annual retreat she spoke with feeling of how much the conferences had meant to her. They were on the Fatherhood of God. The Sisters like to think her death was the call of the Father to a favorite child; and her response was glad and swift. Hearing His voice, who would linger?