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Sister Mary Schubert

Again a sudden death has taken a Sister from duty and has bereaved the Community. Our Guardian Angel Home's faithful Sister Mary, bookkeeper, suffered an acute heart attack early Tuesday morning, October 22, 1957, and died within the hour at approximately five o'clock while the doctor was arranging to move her to St. Joseph Hospital for treatment.

Sister had the day before been well and cheerful. Club members had gathered at the Home in the evening, and after the meeting she took them to the door and stood to wave goodbye to them. She retired as usual, all seemed well. At four-thirty the next morning Sister Lucretia heard Sister coughing violently. It turned to a strangling sort of sound, and Sister went to investigate. She found Sister Mary in an agony of suffering, just able to gasp, "I can't breathe!" Sister Lucretia hurried to call Sister Perpetua and phoned doctor Roger Fahrner. By the time she returned, Sister was emitting white phlegm. The doctor arriving in a short while, promptly called the inhalator squad and made arrangements to take Sister to the hospital. As they were carrying her toward the entrance, Sister Lucretia noting Sister's ghastly appearance, protested, "she's dying!" Her fears were well founded, for Sister did breathe her last in a few moments. Father Fabian Donlan, O.Carm., chaplain of the inhalator squad, arrived shortly and administered Extreme Unction, but there was no apparent life. Sister's last words had been "My Jesus, mercy."

Sister had been under Doctor Fahrner's care for diabetes, but no one knew of any cardiac involvement. She was, at the time of her death, sixty-eight years of age, having lived in religion fifty years. The former Florence Schubert of Chicago, she was the daughter of Herman J. and Anna Kestel Schubert.

Sister Mary began her service to the Community in 1909 as a teacher, her first mission being St. Peter's, Mansfield, Ohio. She further taught in Columbus, Ohio; Bayfield, Wisconsin; and in Rock Island, Chicago, and Joliet, Illinois. In 1934 she was appointed bookkeeper at Guardian Angel Home. She also taught high school classes there until the end of 1939. From that time until her death her duties were primarily those of bookkeeper and office clerk.

Her willing and conscientious service at the Home were a by-word wherever Sister was known. Quiet, self-effacing, industrious, she worked long hours in complete dedication. Pleasant with the people, kind and motherly with the children, she was an ideal receptionist and could work amidst all kinds of distractions in a calm and edifying way. Exact and systematic, doing everything as perfectly as possible, she kept flawless books; though her work stopped without warning, everything was up to date. Her passing cannot be viewed but as a reward for a faithful stewardship. The Sisters are confident she "entered into the joy of her Lord."

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Funeral services were held at the Convent chapel on Friday October 25, at 9:30 a.m. Sister's nephew Rev. Gerald Schubert, O.F.M. of Washington, Missouri, celebrated the Solemn Requiem Mass. In the sanctuary were Msgr. Thomas Holbrook of Catholic Charities, Chicago; the Franciscan Fathers Gervase Brinkman, Ermin Micka, and Benedict McCarthy; Rev. Joseph Adam of St. Stephen Church and Rev. John Kloepfer of St. Patrick's in Joliet. - Burial took place at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Father Gerald officiating at the grave assisted by Monsignor Holbrook.