

SISTER M. THEODOSIA, O.S.F.

May 4, 1965

She would have headed the Jubilarian Procession on June 22nd -- but this was May and Sister Theodosia was "so tired -- so sick," and anyway, "I can celebrate the Jubilee in heaven!"

Not that she looked too ill. True, her heart was giving out -- she "had no cardiac reserve," the doctor had said when he ordered her to the Infirmary a year ago, -- but to one who did not know this fact, Sister Theodosia appeared to be doing very well. Not until April 25th did she finally "give up." On the 21st she was still taking part in the hobby projects, still concerned with Community events, but the Sunday after Easter found her in bed -- and she did not get up again.

"I'm coming to the end of the line," she told Mother Borromeo, who came especially to see her on May 1st, and when Mother said, "Just think, Sister Theodosia, all the Sisters who are waiting to welcome you!" Sister nodded. "Sister Borgia -- the old one -- she was the first one I knew who died." That was back in 1903 when the young Mary Schumacher was a month-old novice. Now, some 60 years later, she was waiting impatiently to join the ranks of those who had gone ahead.

"Wait until I get back on Tuesday," Sister Celine had told her, -- and Sister Theodosia did just that. However, Sister Celine hadn't specified the time on Tuesday, and Sister Theodosia was too anxious to be gone to wait beyond the morning hours.

The night of the 3d she slept fitfully, and with the morning became more and more restless. "What time is it?" she would ask, -- and then the urgent question: "Is Father coming?" It was 7:20 when Father stepped into her room -- at 7:20 she received Viaticum -- and then, everything being finally in order, Sister Theodosia turned away to sleep. Thirty-five minutes later she opened her eyes in Eternity.

She had always wanted to be "conscious to the very end," and 35 minutes was a pretty close margin! Once she had received Viaticum, the world around her seemed to fade. Very likely she was not aware that Sisters Evangela, Agnella and Rosalinda, old Sigel-ites like herself, were there with Mother Immaculate, or that Sister Ernesta watched sadly at the bedside of her Jubilarian classmate. Mother Borromeo and Sister Beatrice -- Sister Theodosia's pupil at Hubbard Woods long ago -- rushed to OLA with Sister Miriam Edward -- but Sister Theodosia was in a hurry to be gone. Time stopped for her at 7:55.

She had had one request for Mother on May 1st. She was overwhelmed with the congratulations, the Masses, the prayers that were arriving for her Jubilee. "I want to thank everyone," she told Mother, "but I can't write to them all. Will you please put it in SCAN that I thank all the Sisters?"

This is it -- her "Thank You!" -- the final, gracious gesture, from a kindly, thoughtful lady!

GOD GRANT HER REST ETERNAL!