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Sister Leonette Schwind

A very unexpected death occurred when Sister M. Leonette Schwind died at St. Joseph's Hospital, Joliet, about 12:30 AM on December 30, 1937. Sister Leonette had gone to St. Joseph's Hospital for an operation for acute appendicitis. The operation apparently was successful. Sister had undergone the operation the morning of December 29th. She had requested that no one stay with her during the night, saying that the nurses on the floor would be sufficient. The nurse had been in a short time before midnight. Sister was all right then. When she returned after midnight she found Sister in a dying condition. She summoned help at once; the chaplain was called and Rev. Mother Thomasine notified at once. Rev. Mother sent Sister M. Aloysia, superior of the Motherhouse, and Sister Gonzaga to the hospital at once. No time was lost, but Sister Leonette was dead before they arrived. Whether Father Angelus, the chaplain, reached her bedside before she breathed her last was not definitely ascertained. The primary cause of death was an embolism - the effect of the operation for acute appendicitis. Bronchiectosis of long standing was a contributing cause. Sister Leonette had been in ill health for a number of years. Since August, 1937 she had been a patient in the infirmary, though for about two months previous to her death she was up most of the day, and assisted here and there with light work on the infirmary floor.

Sister Leonette died on Thursday, December 30th. Because of the holyday and the Sunday no Requiem Mass could be celebrated. Arrangements for burial were made for New Year's afternoon at 1:30 o'clock. The remains were taken into the chapel for the last absolution, Father Thomas Rust, OFM, the chaplain officiating. Burial was made in St. John's cemetery.

The Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated in the chapel of the Motherhouse on Monday, January 3, at 8:30 o'clock. Rev. Thomas Rust, OFM, the chaplain, was celebrant. Rev. Angelus Ziviesler, OFM, chaplain at St. Joseph's Hospital, was deacon, and Rev. Cassian Nothbauer, OFM, chaplain at the Guardian Angel Home, was subdeacon.

Sister Angelita is an older sister of Sister Leonette. Two other sisters from Columbus, Ohio, were present for the funeral.