

**149. Mother Celestine Sontag
July 15, 1927**

Venerable Mother M. Celestine, formerly Miss Johanna Sontag, former General Superior of the Community of the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate, Joliet, departed this life at 2:00 a.m. at the Motherhouse on July 15, 1927 after a three day illness of pneumonia. She was born in Feulen, Luxemburg, Germany, April 17, 1842. Sister entered the Franciscan Congregation at Joliet on April 26, 1868. Sixty of her eighty-six years were spent in religious life.

Mother Celestine held the office of Superior General from 1882 to 1888. During her administration she was ever a simple Mother in her relations with her spiritual daughters. Her memory shall ever be dear to all who knew her.

From 1895-1911 she was Mistress of Novices. as Mistress and as teacher of the German Language in the Normal Department, she had endeared herself to all the novices and students who paid her tribute of affection as a kindly director, and efficient teacher, and a thoroughly self-sacrificing sister.

Funeral services for Mother Celestine were held on Monday morning at 8:30 o'clock in the Convent Chapel. Solemn Requiem High Mass was celebrated by the Rt. Rev. Francis A. Rempe, V.G. of Chicago, who also delivered the sermon. Rev. Alexius Bender, OFM was deacon, Rev. Theodore Wemhoff, OFM was subdeacon, Rev. Eugene Sontag, seminarian at Mundelein and nephew of Mother Celestine was master of ceremonies. In the sanctuary were present Ven. Mother Celestine's grand nephews: Brother Charles Sontag, SM from St. Michael's School, Chicago and Brother Porphyrius, Alexian Brother. Sister M. Ventura, Superior of the Franciscan Sisters of Wheaton, Illinois and niece of the departed was also present. Besides, a host of relatives from Chicago attended the funeral series. Her remains rest in St. John's Cemetery, Joliet.



Mother Celestine Sontag

Venerable Mother M. Celestine, formerly Miss Johanna Sontag, former Superior General of the Community of the Sisters of Saint Francis of Mary Immaculate, Joliet, departed this life at 2:00 a.m. at the Motherhouse on July 15, 1927 after a three days illness of pneumonia. She was born in Feulen, Luxemburg, Germany, April 17, 1842. Sister entered the Franciscan Congregation at Joliet in April 26, 1868. Sixty of her eighty-six years were spent in the religious life.

Mother Celestine held the office of Superior General from 1882 to 1888. During her administration she was ever a simple Mother in her relations with her spiritual daughters. Her memory shall ever be dear to all who knew her.

From 1895-1911 she was Mistress of Novices. As Mistress and as teacher of the German Language in the Normal Department, she had endeared herself to all the novices and students who paid her tribute of affection as a kindly director, an efficient teacher, and a thoroughly self-sacrificing sister.

Funeral services for Mother Celestine were held on Monday morning at 8:30 o'clock in the Convent Chapel. Solemn Requiem High Mass was celebrated by the Rt. Rev. Francis A. Kempé, V.G. of Chicago, who also delivered the sermon. Rev. Alexius Esder, OFM was deacon, Rec. Theodore Wemhoff, OFM was subdeacon, Rev. Eugene Sontag, seminarian at Mundelein and nephew of Mother Celestine was master of ceremonies. In the sanctuary were present Ven. Mother Celestine's grand nephews. Brother Charles Sontag S.M. from

St. Michael's School, Chicago and Brother Euphymius, Alexian Brother.

Sister M. Ventura, Superior of the Franciscan Sisters of the Holy Family, Illinois and niece of the departed, was also present. Besides, a host of relatives from Chicago attended the funeral services. Her remains rest in St. John's Cemetery, Joliet.