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Sister Charitas Stachowicz

Two other deaths followed closely upon the death of Sister M. Emily. On May 13, 1938 Sister M. Charitas Stachowicz died at St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital, Chicago. On May 17th, the day of Sister Charitas' funeral, Sister M. Raineldis died in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

Sister Charitas had been a patient at St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital uninterruptedly since December 28, 1935. After her long illness of intense suffering, Sister Charitas passed to her eternal at 4:10 PM (DST) on Friday, May 13th. She was in the sixty-eighth year of her age and the forty-fourth of her religious life. Her death was due to abdominal carcinoma.

For weeks Sister Charitas seemed to have been in a dying condition. On Easter Monday, April 18, her condition was so critical, it was thought she could not live through the day. Yet, she lived almost a month longer, patiently enduring her excruciating sufferings. During Sister's stay in the hospital, the Sisters at Sacred Heart Mission had general charge of visiting her, keeping the Superior General informed. Sister Ernesta, the superior, and her Sisters were untiring. During the last weeks of her illness Reverend Mother appointed Sisters from other Chicago missions to take their turns staying with her through the day and night. The Sisters at St. Mary of Nazareth hospital were also most kind and interested in Sister Charitas. During the first year and a half of her confinement at the hospital, Sister M. Basilla, her niece, was superior at the hospital. After Sister Basilla's transfer, the Sisters at the hospital continued all their kind and interested service. No bill for services was ever submitted to our Community, but they were given \$1500.00 in three different installments of \$500.00 each - twice during Sister's stay at the hospital, and once right after her death.

Often during Sister Charitas' illness the pastor, sisters and people of Holy Cross expressed their wish to have Sister buried from Holy Cross Church. After her death Reverend Mother Thomasine acceded to their request. Sister Charitas over thirty-two years at Holy Cross, was one of their best loved teachers. In December, 1935, when illness forced her to give up, she was superior there and the teacher of the seventh and eighth grades.

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Ordinarily, the funeral would have been held on Monday. However, it so happened that the pastor, the Reverend Stanislas Derengowski, was celebrating the silver jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood. Not to mingle the sorrow of Sister's death with the joy of the jubilee celebration, her remains were brought to the motherhouse about 6:30 o'clock Saturday evening.

About 6:30 o'clock Monday evening the remains were taken to Holy Cross Church to lie in state over night. Father Derengowski and the servers came to the motherhouse to accompany the remains to Holy Cross Church. Reverend Mother Thomasine and a number of the Sisters of the Motherhouse also accompanied the remains.

The Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated at 9:00 o'clock Tuesday morning. Father Derengowski, the pastor of Holy Cross was celebrant. The Rev. Joseph Karabasz, pastor St. Thaddeus Church, Joliet, was deacon, and the pastor of Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Lemont, Illinois, the Rev. H. Jagodzinski, was subdeacon. Rev. A.L. Olszewski, a former pastor of Holy Cross, was present in the sanctuary. At the Offertory of the Mass, Sister Charitas' eighty year old brother and a niece sang a hymn. They also sang a hymn at the cemetery in which all the people joined.

Sister Charitas was buried in St. John's Cemetery, Joliet.