

December 8, 1956

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Sister Anton Marie Tesch

December 8th's lovely feast was both enhanced and saddened by the death of one of our youngest Sisters -- Sister Anton Marie Tesch, in her second year under vows. Sister had predicted that she would "go Home" to the Immaculate Mother on her feast, and her passing seemed more her own triumph than Death's, though his coming had been swift and sure.

Sister Anton Marie had attended the summer session in apparent health. A late August complication indicated surgery for what seemed a ruptured appendix but turned out to be arrhenoblastoma-- a rare type of tumor, highly malignant. A surprisingly rapid recuperation following the operation made it possible for Sister to conduct her class at St. Joseph's for the opening of school. She taught until November 7th, when she again entered the hospital, undergoing surgery a second time on November 14 for a recurrence of the tumor. Dr. Reiser, who attended her, pronounced her condition hopeless and her time short. Released from the hospital November 27, she was brought to the Convent Infirmary. The tumor grew perceptibly from day to day and the pain increased in intensity. On December 7 uremic convulsions set in, and her death occurred the morning of the 8th at 7:25. Sister was just twenty-one years of age.

The Most Rev. Martin D. McNamara presided at the Solemn Requiem Mass celebrated in the Convent Chapel on Monday by Rt. Rev. Msgr. M. J. Butala, pastor of St. Joseph's, with the parish assistants as deacons. Sister's class, the second graders at St. Joseph's, attended the Funeral Mass. - Burial took place at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Sister Anton Marie was the former Dolores Tesch of Mansfield, Ohio. She had been an aspirant for three years before entering the convent in September, 1952. Though the duration of her religious life made it chiefly one of promise, Sister possessed a sterling character, a mature personality, and solid virtues. Her worth had always been recognized, but it was in her illness that her maturity became the more noteworthy.

Sister had an unusual tolerance for pain, suffering with so great fortitude that the doctor referred to her as "our little saint." She offered her sufferings for the reconciliation of her parents, who were separated, and for the conversion of her non-Catholic brother-in-law. Though she had the consolation of seeing her parents together at her bedside, there was no real reconciliation in their case; her brother-in-law, however, on his return home began taking instructions and became a Catholic the following June.

Sister Anton Marie was devoted to Our Lady, praying often to her; in pain she sometimes called out to her Heavenly Mother, always adding that it was "worth it all." In spite of her youth, it was clear that she had learned some of life's deepest lessons. Since "readiness is all," no one would have detained her here merely to add years. All were willing to consign her to Mary Immaculate, whose special care she claimed; all were confident that her passing that day was Mary's answer - the reward of Sister's hope and love.