

161. Sister Gabriel Ulrich
December 10, 1929

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Sister Gabriel Ulrich

Sister M. Gabriel, daughter of Jacob Ulrich and Abela Wies, was born in Horstheide, Germany, on the 16th day of November, 1848. She contracted pneumonia. After a few days of illness she was fortified by the Sacraments and calmly expired on the tenth day of December, 1929, in the 82nd year of her age and in the 57th year of her religious life.

Sister Gabriel found her greatest joy in prayer, close to the tabernacle where she made herself a hidden prisoner for Love of the Silent Watcher there. An unusually hidden life even in the seclusion of the cloister, constant prayer, unruffled patience, a great love for poverty characterized our dear Sister Gabriel. She was buried on Dec. 12 from the Motherhouse Chapel where a Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated for the repose of her soul. The Rev. Louis Johantges, O.F.M., was the celebrant, Rev. Anthony Wagner and Rev. Michael Wernsing, O.F.M. assisted as deacon and subdeacon.

The interment took place in St. John's Cemetery.

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N.B. In the early annals of the Congregation the following was written when Sister Gabriel entered the Novitiate in 1873:

Sister Gabriel, Meta Ulrich, was born in Horstheide, Westphalia, and was reared in the Lutheran creed, although from her early years she had learned much about the Catholic Church. In 1870 she came to America and landed at New Orleans, Louisiana, where she was soon stricken with the yellow fever which raged in that city. She was taken to a hospital which was conducted by religious, where she became more fully acquainted with the Catholic religion, to which, as seen above; she had not been an entire stranger. Having never been prejudiced she now not only felt inclined to embrace our faith, but had also a desire to become a nun even from her childhood. Providence, as she herself tells the story, directed her to St. Francis convent at Joliet. The Mother Superior, Mother Alfred Moes, advised her to attend St. Francis Academy until she would become sufficiently instructed and be admitted into the Church. Having complied, she was shortly afterward baptized and received as a postulant. She had been a seamstress by profession and she has been employed in that capacity in the convent, first as a dressmaker for the boarders, and in later years chiefly in cutting and sewing the coifs, guimps and bands for the Sisters.

Our Mission Record lists Sister Gabriel:

- 1873-1882 St. Francis Convent and Academy, Broadway and Division
- 1882-1887 St. Francis Convent and Academy, Plainfield Road
- 1887-1888 St. Mary Institute, Bayfield, WI
- 1888-1890 St. Francis Convent and Academy, Plainfield Road
- 1890-1891 St. Procopius, Chicago, IL
- 1891-1929 St. Francis Convent, Plainfield Road