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Sister Dionysia Van Den Broek

Shortly after midnight on July 11, the day the General Chapter was to be held, Sister M. Dionysia Van Den Broek died after a prolonged illness. Sister died at 12:45 AM (DST) She had entered the Community from Toledo, Ohio, the daughter of Albert Van Den Broek and Henrietta Vendenter. At the time of her death, she was in the 80th year of her age and the 60th of her religious life. The death announcement cards had to be typed and ready for the mail before the Mass opening the General Chapter.

The funeral services were held on Wednesday, July 13, at 8:15. Office of the Dead was recited before the Solemn Requiem Mass. Rev. Thomas Rust, OFM, was celebrant of the Mass. Rev. Angelus Zwesler, OFM and Rev. Eloguis Weir, OFM were deacon and subdeacon respectively. Burial was in St. John's Cemetery, Joliet.

Sister Dionysia was always known for her gracious kindness. She was loved and revered by all. Her assignments had taken her to Bayfield working with the Indian children. At another time in charge of the mission at St. Francis Academy. At another time one saw her working in the kitchen of the Motherhouse. Later she was in charge of the patients on one of the floors of the infirmary. But wherever obedience placed her, it was always the same selfless devotion to duty and the same conscientious observance of her own religious duties. After having taken care of the sick herself, or helping with them in her later years, Sister Dionysia's own health failed. She became a patient in November 1937. In the spring of 1938, she was taken to the Mayo Clinic. She was brought home on Holy Saturday, suffering excruciating pain. She lingered on until July 11th.