

July 26, 1963

SISTER ANTONIA GARCIA

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Dear Sisters,

Sister Antonio died this morning at 1:20 A.M. in St. Joseph Hospital, Fort Wayne. She will be buried on Monday, July 29th. Monsignor Conroy will offer a Solemn Requiem High Mass.

Sister had been in bed for the past several weeks on complete rest. The doctor was endeavoring to clear up an infection that had some, but not all, symptoms of hepatitis. However, on Sunday, July 21st, she took a sudden turn for the worse, and after consultation, two doctors advised that she be taken to the hospital. She was anointed by Monsignor Conroy and then taken by ambulance to the hospital. Sister had received Holy Communion Sunday morning.

By Monday, Sister Antonia was in a semi-coma, which developed into a complete coma by Wednesday. In spite of extensive tests, X-rays, etc. the specialists at the hospital could not say definitely what was causing her critical condition.

Our Sister Nurses took turns being constantly with Sister at the hospital. Sister Camilla went with her in the ambulance on Sunday, and it was she who was with Sister Antonia when she died.

During the afternoon yesterday, Sister Antonia had gone into convulsions several times. Her mother and brother arrived in Ft. Wayne that afternoon, and were able to see Sister for a short while. They were urged to rest last night, so that they could be with Sister Today. Instead, Our Lord took Sister Antonia to Himself early this morning, on the Feast of St. Ann. May she rest in peace.

Sister's mother and brother are here at Victory Noll and the rest of the family will be here tomorrow.

Devotedly in Jesus and Mary,

Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters

Victory Noll, Huntington, Indiana

SISTER ANTONIA GARCIA

Sister Antonia's Solemn Funeral Mass was offered by Msgr. Conroy on July 29 at 9 A.M. Over 200 of our Sisters joined in the singing of the Mass and the procession to the cemetery. Sister's mother, and her three brothers and three sisters were present. Only the one sister who is a religious, stationed in the Honduras, was absent. The deep faith and resignation of this devout family were edifying to all of us.

Msgr. Conroy, in his sermon, compared Sister Antonia's mother to the mother of St. Maria Goretti. Msgr. had been present at the canonization, at which Maria's mother was also present, and he likened Sister Antonia's funeral Mass to a kind of canonization. The thoughts in the minds of these two mothers, and their memories, were unknown to others. But Msgr. concluded with suggesting that each one present determine what had been her contribution or deterrent to Sister Antonia's reaching of her goal - that of persevering to the end in her consecrated service to God.

Sent to missions