

SISTER MARTHA CAMPOMENOSI

(September 6, 1895 - December 6, 1962)

On December 6, 1962, at Santiago, Chile, the serene death of our dear Sister Martha Campomenosi, in the world, Adele, comforted by the last rites. Age, 67. Religion, 28.

Sister Martha was born in Bobbio, Province of Pavia, Italy, on September 6, 1895, to Gianbattista and Mary Fontana.

Having migrated to the United States with her family, she had occasion to become acquainted with our Congregation, and to visit frequently. Even though advanced in age, her petition for admission to the Institute was received favorably and she entered the Novitiate animated by the sincere desire to attain sanctity. Her sweet and amiable dispositions, her profound humility endeared her to her fellow postulants and to the Superiors who considered her worthy to receive the holy habit on September 8, 1934, at the age of 39.

Her advanced age did not render the year of novitiate difficult, even though she lived with novices much younger than she. Observant, patient, loving, solicitous, throughout her life. She spent the first few years of her religious life performing humble duties in various houses of the North American Community. In 1948, she was transferred to Ovalle, Chile, where she continued her hidden and patient work with the same spirit of abnegation and self-sacrifice, without ever complaining of her physical sufferings. Upon her arrival in Ovalle, she was given the office of cook and subsequently that of door-keeper, and thus becoming the amiable portress.

Here, as in North America, her predominant characteristics were patience and charity so that she was beloved by all, especially by the resident students. Her physical sufferings were increased by the frequent heart attacks. Yet no one would ever have imagined how much she endured, for she retained her imperturbable countenance.

Her particular resolve, formulated after deep study of our holy rule, was to dedicate herself unreservedly to the Institute spending herself unselfishly, at the same time, causing as little inconvenience as possible. She succeeded in this holy resolve until the end of her days on earth.

After her transfer to Santiago, Chile, she was operated on for gastric ulcer in December, 1961. For a while she seemed to improve but soon she took a turn for the worse. With full mental lucidity, she received Holy Communion and the last rites, and then began a very painful agony. On December 6, she seemed to be better but it was the end. Serenely, as she lived, she surrendered her beautiful soul to God, amid the mourning of the Sisters who were present.

Sister Martha was laid in state in the Convent Chapel where she was lovingly watched by the Sisters. After the Requiem Mass, her mortal remains were transported to the Santiago cemetery and buried in the tomb of the Institute.

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE!