

October 30

Sister M. Denise Maloney
1877-1965

December 27, 1877 marked the birth of Margaret Louise Maloney, the second of four daughters, to John and Mary Maloney. Her father was born in County Limerick, Ireland while her mother was the daughter of Irish immigrants. The family lived in Coldwater, where Mr. Maloney was a section foreman. Margaret attended the district school and public high school. After graduation she worked in a dress-making factory and as a bookkeeper in Branche's Department Store.

Some neighbors of ours entered the Sisters of Mercy which caused me to think deeply about my own life. I decided to investigate some communities. I tried to see the Dominicans at Adrian but a storm arose and I could not get off the train. The next trip I went to Monroe, it was a sunny day. Mother Mechtildis met me. I watched the sisters in chapel and I felt a great peace. This was where I belonged, God wanted me here.

On January 7, 1908 Margaret entered the community. She was received on May 21 of the same year, and was missioned to Holy Trinity the following year. Sister Denise was professed on July 19, 1910. Two years later her sister Agnes (Sister Mary Pascal) came to the community. Sister Denise spent the next eleven years at St. Mary Academy, Monroe, where she had charge of the dormitory and oversaw the girls who did domestic work. In 1921 Sister was sent to Blessed Sacrament where she continued her domestic work. From 1922 to 1938 she taught at St. John, Jackson; Our Lady of Lourdes, River Rouge; St. Patrick, Wyandotte. St. Matthew, Detroit was the scene of her labors from 1938 until 1950. The next year Sister spent some time at Christ the King, Detroit; the Mother-

house and St. Catherine, Detroit. Sister was also at St. Francis de Sales (1952) and at Gesu for five years.

Sister Denise returned to the Motherhouse in 1959. At the age of eighty-eight she could still remember her graduation and the class song:

We are the class of '96,
Gay, happy and full of tricks.

Sister Denise died on October 30, 1965.

A Life Marked by Humble Excellence...

Trifles make perfection, but perfection is no trifle. Anything done by Sister Denise, whether it was sewing, writing, cleaning or making a bed, one would recognize that satisfying touch of perfection.

Sister was a very humble soul; she accepted domestic tasks and fulfilled them joyously. Being in charge of a dormitory was a laborious duty which she managed to perfection - so much hidden work: sewing, darning, patching.

During her years at the Academy, Sister was the dormitory perfectionist. If she told you that you made the bed nicely or darned the item neatly, you treasured the compliment.

Although her teaching was of a very high degree of accomplishment, she herself lacked confidence and belittled her work. Sister was as exact in her teaching as she was in her domestic work. People often asked about her and spoke of her excellent teaching. They appreciated what she had given them. She combined gentleness with firmness, which is an art. She got inside the children; she understood them. Her teaching influenced many priestly vocations.

Sister always took great pride in the appearance of her classroom. It was always clean and orderly, and her bulletin boards were very attractive, serving as learning devices as well. Her experience of suffering, patience and humiliation enabled her to really contact the people she served.

Sister's class always engaged in mission projects. She delighted in making mission boxes of religious articles - brown scapulars, Sacred Heart badges, rosaries, crocheted chains with medals - all of which she made herself. Often the boxes went to students of her own or to those of her sister, Sister Mary Pascal.

Her unexpected, quiet humor made her a very enjoyable companion. There were many rough spots in her fifty-seven years of religious life, yet her humble excellencies spell real sanctity.

The following sisters contributed to this article: Sister Mary Pascal Maloney, Sister Mary Casimir Marschke, Sister Salome Costello, Sister Corona Buckheister, Sister Irene Riley, Sister Mary Lawrence Rottach, Sister Alma Reilly, Sister Agnes Clare Mack, Sister Carlotta Hattendorf.