

## Sister Andrea Fischer (Theresa Fischer)

Sister Andrea Fischer was born on Christmas Day, 1882 in Kirchbierlingen, Germany. Her parents were Jacob Fischer and Agatha Batz Fischer. She entered the novitiate at Sacred Heart, Buffalo, New York on August 25, 1900. She professed her vows at Sacred Heart on July 25, 1903.

Sister Andrea did laundry and housework at various convents in the Eastern province before coming to St. Mary's in O'Neill, Nebraska in 1939. She worked from 1949-1953 at St. Mary, Scottsbluff, Nebraska where she died October 20, 1953. She is the first sister to be buried in Fairview Cemetery, Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

St. Mary Hospital  
October 24, 1953

Dear Mother and Sisters:

Sunday Sister Andrea was as active as she has been for the past year, attending all the community exercises and doing the refectory. Early Monday morning, shortly before the Sisters got up, Sister Borromea heard a noise which awakened her. Sister Wendelin heard it also and thought a patient had fallen out of bed. After investigating they found Sister Andrea on the floor in her cell with a small cut on her head which was bleeding profusely. Mother was summoned and Sister was moved to the hospital by cart. Father Hollie and the Doctor were called. Sister said she was not sick during the night but was dizzy when she got up. She was anointed at once but although conscious she was unable to receive Holy Viaticum. All during the day Sister had to be given much sedation because she was very restless and in spite of being in an oxygen tent was fighting for air. She would whisper "My Jesus Mercy" after us and kiss the crucifix. The nurses and Sisters alternated staying at Sister's bedside. All of the employees were so concerned about her because her quiet way had won the hearts of all who knew her. In the early evening she was much worse and died at 1:20 a. m. Tuesday, October 20.

Sister's one great wish was to live to celebrate her golden jubilee and yet when she seemed to be getting weaker in the spring, she would not anticipate her jubilee but wanted it on the "right day," July 25. Her wishes for that day were granted -- all were simple as was her whole life -- she wanted "big girls in long dresses" to lead her to chapel because "little girls were too distracting."

Sister's body was brought to the Sister's parlor adjacent to the chapel Tuesday evening. After Mass on Wednesday she was moved into the chapel. Public rosary was recited Wednesday evening and our little chapel was filled to capacity.

The funeral was held from the hospital chapel Thursday morning and our chaplain, Father C. J. Hollie, sang the Requiem High Mass. There were five other priests present. Four Sisters from St. Joseph's Hospital and St. Agnes Academy, Alliance and the Carmelite Sisters from Scottsbluff also attended the funeral. The St. Agnes Parish furnished the choir music. Father Hollie delivered a very touching sermon including the necessity of religious vocations.

Sister is the first religious buried in our beautiful Fairview Cemetery.

We here at St. Mary now feel we have a powerful intercessor before the throne of God and that Sister Andrea will not forget our many needs.

Lovingly in St. Francis,

Mother Marion and Sisters