

Sister Norberta Howard (Helen Agnes Howard)

Sister Norberta Howard was born in Buffalo, New York on August 23, 1868. She was the daughter of Martin and Catherine Mary Reed Howard. She entered the novitiate in Buffalo on May 27, 1886 and professed her vows on August 12, 1890 at Sacred Heart, Buffalo, New York.

Sister Norberta performed sewing and household duties at St. Mary's, O'Neill, Nebraska and St. Francis Mission, South Dakota. In 1939 she retired to St. Joseph's, Alliance, Nebraska, where she was a patient for 23 years. She died on October 9, 1962 at the age of 94. At the time of her death, she was the oldest sister in Sacred Heart Province. She is buried in Calvary Cemetery, Alliance, Nebraska.

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St. Joseph's Hospital.
Alliance, Nebraska
October 15, 1962

Dear Mother and Sisters,

On the morning of October 9th Sister Death came for the oldest Sister in our province, Sister M. Norberta Howard. Sister had been a patient here at St. Joseph's Hospital for 23 years, a semi-invalid, mostly confined to her bed. In spite of her isolation she was always keenly interested in the affairs of the Church, and often urged her Sister visitors to pray for the Holy Father, for sinners, and for the needs of the Holy Church. Only God knows how many prayers she herself offered for these intentions.

In the early summer Sister seemed to suffer a mild cerebral hemorrhage, becoming so helpless as to require hospital care. She was moved from the cloister into the hospital on June 26th, after which her condition grew slowly worse, until she passed into a coma which ended with her quiet death. She had reached the age of 94 years. Her longevity seems to have been inherited; a niece in Buffalo, contacted when Sister died, tells us that Sister Norberta's mother lived to be 108.

The funeral was held at 8:00 a.m. October 13th. Since it was teacher's convention week, Sisters from St. Agnes Academy and St. Mary Hospital, Scottsbluff, were able to assist at the Requiem Mass and to follow her to our peaceful cemetery. None of Sister's relatives were present, but a niece in Buffalo, New York phoned for details, and later wrote and sent a donation. May her soul and those of all our deceased Sisters rest in peace.

Lovingly in St. Francis,

Mother M. Patrice & Sisters