

## Sister Teresa Simmons (Erla Mae Simmons)

Sister Teresa Simmons was born on December 2, 1885 in Newport, Rhode Island. Her parents were Thomas Horace and Ella Maud Pitkins Simmons. She entered the novitiate at Sacred Heart, Buffalo, New York on November 7, 1907 and professed her vows on April 14, 1914 at Stella Niagara, New York.

She earned her RN license in 1930, her B.A. from Minot State Teacher's College in 1943 and became a Registered Record Librarian in 1954. She was a teacher, and performed office duties in four states, Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota. She died at St. Joseph's Hospital, Alliance, Nebraska on January 26, 1965. She is buried in Calvary Cemetery, Alliance, Nebraska.

St. Joseph's Hospital  
Alliance, Nebraska  
February 5, 1965

Dear Mothers and Sisters,

Quietly and unafraid Sister Teresa passed to her eternal reward on January 26. The end came quickly although Sister had been in poor health for more than a year and had required frequent hospitalizations to receive life sustaining blood transfusions. Between hospital stays Sister Teresa continued to do her work of faithfully visiting patients, helping the other Sisters with their knitting, and writing numerous letters. Although in pain she was able to show Christ's love by her joyful and human love. The employees liked to take care of her because of this.

Always young in heart, Sister welcomed the aggiornamento of the Church and of Religious in particular. She was ever planning more ways to show Christ to people and only a few days before her death she wanted to make a visit to Good Samaritan Village, community for senior citizens, and start a discussion group among the hospital employees.

The Funeral Mass was offered in Holy Rosary Church by Monsignor J. F. Keller, long-time friend of Sister Teresa. His gift to her was a sermon given from his heart. The church was filled not only with Sisters but also with numerous friends whom Sister Teresa had made by her ever going out to people.

One of Sister's works of charity was to read daily to Monsignor Keller who is nearly blind. Only the day before she died she was able to give him a few minutes of her time and said she had something very beautiful to read to him. The article she had chosen was an account of Pope John's death. After reading it she said, "My bags are packed too and I am ready to go." Sister was ready to go. Her preparation for death consisted of the one thing necessary, a tremendous love for God manifested by a tremendous love for His people. May she rest in peace.

In Christ,

Mother M. Carmen and Sisters