

Sister DeChantal Baumann (Mary Antoinette Baumann)

Sister DeChantal was born to Ambrose Baumann and Philomena Knoblauch Baumann in St. Louis, Missouri on May 15, 1883. She entered the novitiate at Sacred Heart, Buffalo, New York, on June 21, 1907 and professed vows at Stella Niagara, New York on April 15, 1911.

She worked as a teacher and also performed housework at various convents in the Eastern Province. In 1938, she came to Sacred Heart Province to do housework and child care at St. Mary's in O'Neill, Nebraska. She worked at St. Francis Mission, and as a sacristan at Holy Rosary Mission, South Dakota. She retired to St. Joseph's, Alliance, Nebraska where she died on August 22, 1970. She is buried in Calvary Cemetery, Alliance.

St. Joseph's Hospital

SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

416 WEST ELEVENTH STREET
ALLIANCE, NEBRASKA 68301

September 14, 1970

DIAL 782-2888

Dear Sisters,

Sister M. DeChantal Bauman died on August 22, 1970. In a little book she had written, "Dear Lord, just grant me the time to do all the things I am expected to do."

Sister DeChantal had told us several times that she felt the time was near for her to go. On Friday, her nameday, she arose as usual and was in the chapel before 6:00 a.m. for prayer and Holy Mass at 6:30. After her breakfast she returned to chapel for Monsignor Keller's Mass at 8:00 a.m. after which she rested for awhile. She returned to chapel to keep her Holy Hour, then a little after 11:00 she left the chapel and visited in the hall with Sister Maxine and the housekeeper, Mrs. Taylor, before going to her room. She had just gotten settled in her chair when the nurses came with her dinner tray and found her slumped in her chair. They put her on the bed and called Dr. J. F. Kennedy. She had recovered somewhat by the time he arrived. He said to let her rest and then see how she felt.

Sister Ruth came in shortly after Dr. Kennedy had left and asked Sister DeChantal, "Say, what do you think you are doing on your name day?" She answered, "I am getting ready to go home." She did not feel any better, so Sister Rita called Father Murphy to anoint her. After this, she said, "Now, I am ready to go."

About 2:00 p.m. Sister DeChantal complained of severe pain in her right leg. Dr. Kennedy ordered a hypo for the pain but she did not get much relief. She was moved to the hospital and given another hypo so she could get some rest. She did not want her family called but when the doctor told us she had an embolism in her right leg he also suggested her family be called. She was concerned that they would only worry and would be unable to come to be with her. She said, "It won't be long now." Her family was notified anyway.

Between 11:00 and 12:00 she was very restless and Fr. Murphy came and gave her the last blessing. Then she asked, "How long yet?" She asked to be moved on her side and then she fell asleep and rested until about 1:00 A.M. The nurses were asked to call Sister Ruth if there was any change as she thought she had better rest awhile. The nurses called her shortly after 2:00 a.m. They had noticed a change in her breathing. She opened her eyes and smiled when Sister Ruth came into the room, then she gradually slept away. At about 2:40 a.m. she just sighed and was gone--a quiet and peaceful death.

She was beautiful in death. She looked more like 40 than 87. All who saw her remarked how young and peaceful she looked.

We miss Sister DeChantal. She always did as much for herself as she possibly could. She loved Holy Rosary Mission and we were happy to recall that she was able to visit Sisters Magdalene and Dolorosa at the Mission only a few weeks before her death. May she rest in peace.

The Sisters of St. Joseph's Hospital