

SISTER EMILY RIZZO

(May 28, 1888 - December 28, 1962)

On December 28, 1962, Sister Emily Rizzo, in the world, Micheli, passed to her heavenly reward with a serene death, after having received the comforts of our holy religion. Age - 74. Religion - 53.

Sister Emily was born at Torre del Greco, Italy, on May 28, 1888, to Joseph and Maria Montuori. Orphaned at the age of 12, she was received in our house at Torre del Greco, Naples, Italy. Shortly afterwards she sought entrance to the Congregation as an aspirant, receiving the holy habit on June 24, 1909. She made her first profession of vows on August 26, 1911, and her perpetual profession on March 19, 1918.

Sister Emilia's life was a continuous Calvary of physical and moral sufferings. After her arrival to the United States of America, where holy obedience had assigned her, she was afflicted with severe stomach disturbances which affected her nervous system. Forced to return to Italy, she spent long years at the Mother House in solitude and silence, always melancholy and diffident, alienating herself from Community life. It was a veritable martyrdom for her and for the Sister who took care of her. Sister Emily found relief only in her devotion to Our Lady and to St. Gerard. Having ameliorated through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin and of St. Gerard, as she asserted, she gradually began to live the Community life and to observe the Holy Rule, as far as her health permitted. Charitable and kind towards her fellow religious, she exhibited timid reserve and gentleness towards the Superiors.

At the beginning of November, 1961, Sister Emily began to deteriorate, her sufferings increasing each day, and causing her unusual fatigue. In December she was confined to bed. It was then that the nature of her illness manifested itself -- cancer of the stomach, which caused her excruciating sufferings, borne with serenity and patience, until the last days of her earthly existence. Sister Emily joined her heavenly Spouse on December 28, 1962, comforted by the last rites of our holy religion and assisted by her fellow Sisters.

The funeral services were held the following day, the entire religious family participating, and her body was placed in the cemetery Chapel of the Institute, in Angri.

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE!