

## **MOTHER M. JOSEPHA HERMANNA GLINK (1894-1900)**

Mother Josepha Hermanna came from a highly respected middle-class family of Munich. Although she attended the school taught by the Servite Sisters, she chose the Anger Convent when she decided to enter religious life.

For decades, Sister Josepha Hermanna served as a discreet, prudent, and skillful secretary for both Mother Theresa and Mother Margarita. As their traveling companion, she met many sisters and gained an insight into the circumstances of the missions in the European provinces. During the general chapter held after the death of Mother Margarita in 1894, she was unanimously elected general superior.

Since Mother Margarita had only visited the European missions, Mother Josepha Hermanna set out on a visitation journey to North America in 1897-98. She visited all the houses of the three American provinces, spoke with each sister, and won their love and trust. At that time, the American half of the congregation included 1,164 sisters in 134 houses.

During the six years of Mother Josepha Hermanna's term of office, government authorities were no longer sympathetic toward the establishment of new missions. The rapid growth of the congregation's early years in Bavaria was no longer the case. Many women had been trained as secular teachers and were seeking employment. Nevertheless, Catholics in some places insisted on having School Sisters of Notre Dame and would not rest until all obstacles had been overcome and a convent school was approved. In Bavaria alone, 12 new houses were founded between 1894 and 1900.

By 1900, Mother Josepha Hermann's frail strength reached its limits. After an illness of several months, she died on April 12, 1900. This gentle, kind, and motherly woman was mourned by the School Sisters of Notre Dame for a long time.

Material taken from *The Poor School Sisters of Notre Dame: An International Educational Congregation with Bavarian Origins, 1833-1983*, by Maria Liobgid Ziegler, +June 18, 1983. Revised and completed by Maria Therese Barnikel, 1985.