

Sister Theonilla Stessman, O.S.B., 94

Dec. 1, 1907 – Feb. 11, 2002

ATCHISON, KS – Sister Theonilla (Amelia) Stessman, O.S.B. was born Dec. 1, 1907, to Elizabeth (Heuttemann) and Theodore Stessman in Earling. She entered the Benedictine community June 10, 1925, and made her monastic profession Jan. 1, 1927. The day before she died, the community had celebrated the 75th anniversary of her profession. Between 1928 and 1954, Sister Theonilla graduated from Mount St. Scholastica College (1940) and taught in community schools in Missouri, Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska. She was gifted in painting and sculpture, and was a talented seamstress. She was stationed in Atchison since 1955, where she was helpful in domestic services. She died at Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, KS, Feb. 11, 2002, at age 94.

Sister Theonilla was preceded in death by her parents, six brothers and three sisters. She is survived by her sisters, Agnes Herbst and Genevieve Oppold, both of Panama, and by nieces and nephews.

Mass of the Resurrection was in the choir chapel Feb. 14, 2002.
