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Sister Ignatia (Raignan) Baker

On September 22, 1905, Sister M. Ignatia, formerly Mary (Raignan) Baker of Burlington, Vermont, died of tuberculosis at Saint Vincent's Institution, St. Louis, Missouri in the sixty-second year of her age and the thirty-sixth of her religious life.

Sister Ignatia showed signs of insanity in September of 1897. As her condition gradually became more serious, doctors John Fahrner and Romaine Curtiss of Joliet were consulted. Both doctors legally certified that Sister Ignatia's mind had become deranged and on January 1, 1898, she was taken to St. Louis by Sister Clotilda Schramm, accompanied by a postulant, Miss Mary Koester, and by Hon. Sebastian Lager and officer Ebner.

Sister Ignatia had been a novice in the community of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, near South Bend, Indiana. Having been dismissed from that Order she begged to be given a trial in our community. Her chief trouble in the former community seemed to have been an inclination to melancholy, which however did not manifest itself in her new home. She was a devout religious and very charitable in her conversations, so that one of her companion sisters once remarked, "I have lived several years with Sister Ignatia and do not remember having heard her make an uncharitable remark." -- At the time of her death she had been an inmate of St. Vincent's Institution eight years. Her remains were taken to Joliet and interred in St. John's Cemetery. Rev. Michael Richardt, OFM. performed the funeral rites.