



Sister Magdalen Sondgeroth

Sister M. Magdalen Sondgerath died at 2:40 p.m. at St. Mary's Hospital, Streator, Illinois, on October 29, 1935. Sister Magdalen had gone to St. Mary's Hospital from St. Peter and Paul Mission, Leonore Illinois where she had been stationed for several past years, to undergo an operation. Dr. F. W. Munson of Streator performed the operation on October 21. The operation itself was successful and for a few days Sister Magdalen seemed to be doing as well as could be expected. Sister Vitalis, the Superior of St. Stephen's, Streator, had been appointed by Reverend Mother Thomasine to take general charge of the arrangements, etc. Sister Vitalis was with Sister during the operation. Sister M. Ottilia, her aunt, and Sister M. Agatha, her niece, visited her on the twenty-sixth. By that time it was realized that her condition was not very promising. The following day (October 27) there was a decided change for the worse. Very early in the morning on October 29, word was received at the Motherhouse that Sister Magdalen was dying. Sister Faustina and Sister Ottilia left as soon as possible. Reverend Mother who was in Chicago at the time was also notified and she left for Streator on the first train out. Sister Magdalen, however, rallied, and no change was noticed until a little after one o'clock. Then it was evident that death would soon claim her. Reverend Mother, Sister Faustina, Sister Ottilia and Sister Vitalis together with her mother and brothers prayed at her bedside until the end came shortly before 3 o'clock. She had received the last sacraments the day when her condition changed for the worse.

Arrangements were made to have the funeral services at St. Stephen's Church, Streator. The Rev. Louis Biskupski, the pastor, arranged to have the corpse laid out in church. On the morning of the funeral the corpse rested in the church vestibule where it was met by the clergy and acolytes. A solemn Requiem High Mass was celebrated at nine o'clock on October 31 by the Rev. Louis Biskupski. Rev. William Wosniak, pastor of Annunciation Church, Eagle, Illinois, was deacon. Rev. George Dzurzyo, assistant pastor of St. Stephen's was sub-deacon. The pastor of St. Peter and Paul, Leonore, the Rev. John Kleinsorg, was present in the sanctuary.

Mr. J. Hudachko, a brother to Sister Lucinda, was the undertaker in charge of the funeral. Arrangements were made for burial in St. John's Cemetery, Joliet. The remains were accompanied to Joliet by Rev. Mother and the other Sisters who had gone to Streator for the funeral Mass, all the Sisters of St. Stephen's Mission and of St. Peter and Paul, Leonore. The Sisters from the Motherhouse were present at the cemetery when the cortege arrived. The chaplain, Rev. Thomas Rust, O.F.M., recited the prayers at the grove.

At the time of her death, Sister Magdalen was in the forty-fifth year of her age and the twenty-seventh of her religious life. Had she lived she would have been among the silver jubilarians of the summer, celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of her profession on the same day that her aunt, Sister Ottilia would celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of her profession.