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Sister Ralph Sondgeroth

Sister Ralph Sondgeroth died at the Motherhouse about 2:30 a.m. on February 20, 1936. She had been lingering for about seven years with pulmonary tuberculosis. At the time of her death Sister Ralph was in the twenty-ninth year of her age and the ninth of her religious life. In August, 1929 she had made temporary profession and was then assigned to teach at St. Raymond's School, Joliet. She taught there until March. Ill health caused her to be brought to the Motherhouse on March 19, and from that time until her death she was confined to the infirmary with the exception of two short periods spent in two of our Mission houses.

In June, 1934 Sister Ralph was feeling well enough to attend the First Mass of her cousin, the Reverend Hilary Sondgeroth, O.S.B. of St. Bede's Abbey, Peru, Illinois. The Superior General had arranged that Sister would return to St. Peter and Paul Mission, Leonore with her companion, Sister Magdalen, and remain there for at least several weeks. It was hoped that this change would do her good. Her stay in Leonore lasted until November 30 when she returned to the Motherhouse infirmary. In the summer of 1935 Reverend Mother Thomasine thinking that the climate of northern Wisconsin might have a beneficial effect upon her, sent her to spend some time at St. Mary's Institute, Bayfield. She remained there until October 15. While in Bayfield Sister Ralph had been examined by a specialist connected with a sanitarium for tuberculosis patients. This doctor's report of her case was not encouraging. On her return to the Motherhouse the doctor ordered her to bed. She was seldom up after this.

The Requiem Mass was celebrated by the Chaplain, the Reverend Thomas Rust, O.F.M., the Rev. Hilary Sondgeroth, O.S.B., a cousin, was deacon, and the Rev. Matthias Hite, assistant pastor at St. Joseph's parish Joliet, was subdeacon. The remains were buried in St. John's Cemetery, Joliet on February 22.