



Birth
July 12, 1919

Baptism
July 20, 1919

Profession
July 27, 1945

Death
October 4, 2015

Burial
Sancta Maria
in Ripa Cemetery
St. Louis, Missouri

*Precious and blessed is
the death of the faithful
before God... for
they die in union with
their dear Jesus, in the
grace of God, in peace.*

Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger
Foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame
Letter 11, September 10, 1831

In Loving Memory

Sister M. Margaret Cortona Hurst, SSND

The Gospel reading for Sunday, October 4 recalled for us Jesus' statement: "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Mark 10:14) How appropriate that on this day, Sister Margaret Cortona Hurst would receive the invitation to come home to her God. As a School Sister of Notre Dame, she spent 59 years teaching children in preschool, kindergarten and the primary grades.

Ruth Mary, the fourth oldest of ten girls and four boys, was born on July 12, 1919, in St. Louis, Mo. to Marguerite [Knoll] and August Hurst. She was baptized on July 20, 1919, at Holy Ghost Church in St. Louis. The Hurst children learned early in life to say their morning, evening and meal prayers. They attended daily Mass and were taught many lessons in loving and caring for each other by their faith-filled parents. Four girls would become School Sisters of Notre Dame: Sister Augusteen, Sister Mary Bede, Sister Margaret Cortona and the former Sister Virgene. A younger brother would become a Franciscan priest, serving in the Holy Land.

Ruth attended first grade at St. Francis de Sales School and completed her elementary education at Our Lady of Sorrows under the direction of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She enrolled in St. John the Baptist High School which was staffed by the Precious Blood Sisters. After graduation, she was employed at St. Anthony's Hospital for three years and then in the office at General American Life Insurance Company.

Ruth witnessed the happiness of her two sisters, Sister Augusteen and Sister Mary Bede, who had become School Sisters of Notre Dame. Realizing that God was also calling her to religious life, she entered the candidature at Sancta Maria in Ripa on August 26, 1942. After two years of college courses, she was received into the novitiate on July 26, 1944, and given the name Mary Margaret Cortona. Profession of first vows was on July 27, 1945, and final vows on July 27, 1951. She earned a bachelor's in elementary education from Webster College in St. Louis in 1953.

Sister Margaret spent 38 years teaching kindergarten and grades one to three. She taught at St. Barbara, St. Martin of Tours and St. Raphael in St. Louis, Mo.; St. Dominic in Breese, Ill. and St. Joseph, Cairo, Ill. During what would have been her retirement years, she ministered for 21 years as a teacher's aide at Notre Dame Preschool, St. Louis, caring for 3-year-old children. After three years of community service in the former St. Louis motherhouse, she was assigned to Veronica House in 2007 and transferred to Anna House in 2009.

Sister Margaret celebrated 70 years of religious profession in the summer of 2015. She died peacefully on October 4, 2015 at 2:10 p.m. at Anna House in Bridgeton, Mo. Sister Mary Bede and several other sisters were praying with her.

A wake/vigil was held at Anna House and Theresa Center on October 7, 2015. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at the Theresa Center

continued

In Loving Memory



*Sister M. Margaret
Cortona Hurst*



on October 8, 2015 with Rev. Dick Lavoie, MS, presider, and assisted by Rev. Mr. Paul Martin, a nephew. Burial was in the Ripa cemetery. Relatives, former colleagues from Notre Dame Preschool, friends and SSNDs attended the funeral services.

She is survived by two sisters, Sister Mary Bede Hurst, SSND of Bridgeton, Mo. and Joan (Ed) Albes of St. Louis, Mo. and one brother, Jack/John (Claudette) Hurst of Rocky Mount, Mo. She was preceded in death by her parents; her sisters: Virginia Hurst, Sister Augusteen Hurst, SSND, Therese Kusmec, Rita Martin, Rose Mary Kusmec, Mary Jane Stewart, Margaret Voorhees and her brothers: Joseph, James and Rev. Mark Hurst, OFM.

Sister Margaret had a deep love and appreciation for her family members. Fun-loving and full of life, she delighted in family gatherings. She had a great love of the outdoors and nature, especially roses. She was an excellent educator and gave many children the start in life that they needed in order to reach the fullness of their potential. Her greatest joy was preparing children for the reception of first Communion. The qualities of a child were manifested in Sister Margaret's child-like simplicity, joy, reliance upon and trust in a loving God. May she now rejoice with family members who have gone before her as she enters into eternal life and receives the reward promised to those who teach the "little ones."

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND

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