



**Birth**  
August 22, 1930

**Baptism**  
August 31, 1930

**Profession**  
July 18, 1952

**Death**  
December 14, 2020

**Burial**  
Notre Dame of Elm Grove  
Cemetery,  
Elm Grove, Wisconsin

*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 Mary Cynthia Borman

**M**arguerite Dolores Borman was born on August 22, 1930, in Marinette, Wisconsin to Viola Runnoe and Harvey Borman, a Lieutenant Colonel in the army. She was baptized nine days later in her parish church, Our Lady of Lourdes. She was the third of nine children; Marie, Betty, Marguerite, Joan, Sandra, Bryan, Clare, James and Cynthia.

She had great respect for her parents. She loved her father dearly and of her mother she says, "We learned selflessness and true charity by sharing with one another. She instilled in us a deep respect for the sisters."

She attended Our Lady of Lourdes school in grades one through three and grades seven through 12. Because of her father's occupation, they moved often and she enrolled in grades four through five in Black Creek, Wisconsin, and in grade six in St. Raymond, Joliet, Illinois. She received a B.S. in Education at Mount Mary College (now University) and later took courses in Chicago, Detroit and Guam.

Her desire to enter religious life was sparked in eighth grade when she wanted to be a missionary in China. During her high school years, she began to explore congregations which were known to be missionaries. Of course, she knew about the School Sisters of Notre Dame, but she said, "I do not want to be a teacher!"

"After graduation from high school in 1948, I wrote to two missionary orders and was rejected by both." She says, "Making a fervent retreat, I realized God wanted me as a religious teacher. As a result, I became a candidate for the School Sisters of Notre Dame on September 4, 1949, and I loved this order dearly." As a candidate, just one year later, she and another candidate were teaching third grade and grades one and two at Sacred Heart School, Appleton, Wisconsin. She was received into the order the next year and finally, on July 18, 1952, she gave herself totally to God through her holy vows.

For 29 years she taught in grade school and in junior high. Her first two assignments were in Guardian Angels, Chicago and St. Mary, Detroit. Then she was asked if she would like to teach on Guam. She taught there for 10 years in Yona, Guam, then returned to the states for four years teaching at St. Aloysius, West Allis, Wisconsin, and in her home town, Marinette, Wisconsin, for two years. Then she returned to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Agat, Guam, for three more years. About this she explains, "By the time I had finished thirteen years on Guam I had lived my religious life longer there than I had in the states."

She notes, "My love for SSND deepened and I was content to serve as a teacher in Wisconsin for eight more years. God was preparing me for another surprise. During my last year of teaching I knew that I was not physically able to continue in the classroom. Come Christmas of that year and God hit me with another surprise, would I like to go to Alaska? 'Yes,' I replied. Don't I want to pray about it? No! I will go!"

In Alaska, she did catechetical and parish ministry work for four years, from

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# *In Loving Memory*

1981 to 1985. Her health forced her to leave, but her heart remained with the Eskimo, “a gentle people who know their God through the goodness of the earth as well as its harshness.” Later, she returned to Alaska after nineteen years to be a companion to Sister Rose Andre Beck in January of 2004 until March of 2006.

The assignments between the times in Alaska shows her real willingness to answer the call of obedience. She was a pastoral minister at St. Patrick, Church in Elkhorn, Wisconsin, for three years; local leader at Visitations Community in Elm Grove, Wisconsin, for four years; telephone operator for the provincial offices in Elm Grove for a half a year; she was part of a local-leader team for our sisters living at three nursing homes for two years and retired and moved to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Mt. Calvary, Wisconsin, for six years.

In reflecting on her many years in religious life she said, “God surprised me, has called me and blessed me as I followed the path laid out before me. I was happy, contented and in love with each ministry to which I was called. I have been in ministries I would never have had the courage to accept had it been my own choice, and that is where all the surprises happened. Had I walked away from the first invitation, I would have missed all God planned to surprise me with: the many children I taught and loved, living in two different cultures, experiencing new ways of prayer and sharing gifts in each culture, ministering to over 100 of our retired sisters from whom I have learned much and grew spiritually by just being with them. Each culture taught me love, beauty, tolerance, patience, quiet understanding and acceptance.

God planted me among a family of women religious who clearly know what they are about and support each other with love. Thank you, God, for your surprises found all over creation and for granting me my deepest wishes.

Sister Cynthia’s funeral was celebrated January 12, 2021, with burial in the Notre Dame of Elm Grove, Elm Grove Cemetery.

*By Sister Elise Zettle, SSND*

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