



**Birth**  
June 22, 1937

**Baptism**  
August 8, 1937

**Profession**  
August 24, 1957

**Death**  
March 20, 2020

**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. Francine Guglielmo

Sister M. Francine Guglielmo, 82, passed away peacefully at Anna House, The Sarah Community in Bridgeton, Missouri, on March 20, 2020. The second child of Frances (Parinelli) and Rocco Guglielmo was born on June 22, 1937, in New York City. She was baptized on August 8, 1937, at St. Joseph Church in New York City, and given the name Angelina Annunciata Scholastica after her two grandmothers. Later the name was shortened to Jean Helen. With her older brother, Joseph, she grew up in an Italian family.

From early childhood, Jean desired to be a missionary and thought of becoming a Maryknoll Sister. She attended St. Joseph Grade School staffed by the Missionary Zealtrices of the Sacred Heart (now known as the Apostles of the Sacred Heart). She was greatly impressed with her seventh grade teacher and after graduation entered the aspiranture, Sacred Heart Academy, in New Haven, Connecticut. She completed high school in three years.

Jean entered the postulancy on August 23, 1954 in Hamden, Connecticut. She received the habit on February 28, 1955 and was given the name Francine. She pronounced first vows on August 24, 1957 and final vows on August 23, 1961.

Sister Francine was awarded a bachelor's degree in history from St. Louis University, St. Louis, in 1961 and a master of education in library science from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1964.

After first profession, Sister Francine taught at St. Ambrose, St. Louis; Our Lady of Loretto, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Cor Jesu Academy, St. Louis.

During her years at Cor Jesu Academy, the congregation experienced a period of transition following the decrees of Vatican Council II. After much prayer, discernment and consultation, it became clear to Sister Francine that she was being called to transfer to another religious congregation. In July 1976, she received a year of absence from the Apostles of the Sacred Heart with the intention of transferring to the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND). She pronounced final vows as a School Sister of Notre Dame on August 16, 1977.

Sister Francine began her ministry as a SSND teaching at Notre Dame High School, St. Louis, for eight years. During the next 30 years, she was a pastoral minister at St. Barbara and St. Rock, St. Louis; Our Lady of Good Counsel, Bellefontaine Neighbors, Missouri; St. Joseph, Manchester, Missouri; St. Patrick, Wentzville, Missouri, and Immaculate Conception, Dardenne Prairie, Missouri.

For 19 years, Sister Francine was a procurator-advocate for the St. Louis Metropolitan Tribunal assisting individuals in obtaining an annulment. She initiated a unique individualized process of reaching out to the alienated and inactive Catholics in a program entitled, "God's People Called Home Ministry." She met with individuals, gave seminars, recorded a series of audio

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*Sister M. Francine Guglielmo*

tapes and wrote a book, “Miracles of Transformation,” to approach annulments in the context of a healing and rejuvenation process.

In 2001, she received the Phoebe and Lydia Award for Evangelization as one the 12 women honored by the St. Louis Archdiocesan Committee on Women in the Church.

Sister Francine was missioned to Veronica House, The Sarah Community, in 2016, and to Anna House in 2018. She passed away peacefully at Anna House on March 20, 2020.

Sister Francine was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Joseph. She is survived by nieces and nephews. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, her funeral was private. Several sisters were present for a burial service as she was buried in the Sancta Maria in Ripa cemetery. A memorial Mass will be celebrated later.

In her ministry to the unchurched and to inactive Catholics, Sister Francine felt that her childhood desire to be a missionary was being fulfilled. She shared the good news with hundreds of people and walked with many as they returned to the Catholic Church. May she now rejoice in her new and eternal life as she beholds her God face-to-face.

*By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND*

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