



**Birth**  
June 18, 1936

**Baptism**  
June 28, 1936

**Profession**  
July 28, 1960

**Death**  
October 2, 2022

**Burial**  
Notre Dame of Elm Grove  
Cemetery

*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 Maria Magdalena Cruz

Sister Maria Magdalena Cruz, 86, died peacefully on Sunday, October 2, 2022, at Our Lady of the Angels, Greenfield, Wisconsin. She patiently awaited full union with God and her family.

On June 20, 1936, Juan and Magdalena Cruz, welcomed their 15th child, Julia, in Yona, Guam. Julia was baptized a week later, June 28, 1936, at St. Francis Church, Yona. Julia was one of 13 surviving children, out of 21 total. She grew up with 10 sisters and two brothers.

In the fifth grade, Julia transferred from the public school to St. Francis School, Yona. Once she completed 8th and 9th grade, she attended one year at the Academy of Our Lady, in Agana, Guam, an all-girl high school run by the Sisters of Mercy. After completing the 10th grade at the Academy, she decided to enter the SSND aspiranture in Yona. Julia had a long desire to become a woman religious and she told her teacher, Sister Mary Eric Miltzer. Two years later, Julia went to the United States for further training in religious life. She completed her high school at St. Mary's Academy in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, and after graduation entered the candidature on August 1, 1958. She studied to be a housekeeper. On July 27, 1959, Julia was received as a novice and named Sister Maria Magdalena. Sister was professed on July 28, 1960. Her class was the first to be received in the Motherhouse at Mequon, Wisconsin.

Right after profession, Sister Maria Magdalena returned to Guam and cooked for the sisters at St. Francis and Notre Dame Regional House, Talofoto, Guam. In 1966, she had the privilege of making her final vows as a School Sister of Notre Dame at the Agana Cathedral, Agana, Guam. Sisters from different communities were invited to make their final vows at the cathedral.

In 1977-1980, Sister Maria Magdalena was invited to help at Mount Carmel Convent in Mount Calvary, Wisconsin. Sister Maria Magdalena did learn some German and Polish from the sisters. In the 1980s, Sister taught Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD), at the Naval Station for three years. In 1985, her Jubilee year, she joined her profession class in Rome and got a chance to go to Germany and visit where Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger founded the School Sisters of Notre Dame. In the 1990s, Sister was missioned to Ebeye, Moen and Yap, all in the Marshall Islands. Sister Maria Magdalena was touched by the different cultures she encountered.

Sister Maria Magdalena, or Sister Maggie, as she was known to her friends and community, retired in 2012. She enjoyed her extra time outdoors and doing little odds and ends. She fully retired in 2020, when she went to live at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, Elm Grove, Wisconsin. After a year and a half, she joined the community of sisters at Our Lady of the Angels in Greenfield, Wisconsin.

Sister Maggie loved the outdoors. Nature revealed the presence of God to her. She praised God for the birds, clouds, trees and flowers. Sister Maggie was a

*continued*

# *In Loving Memory*



*Sister Maria Magdalena  
Cruz*



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blessing to the sisters and staff each day.

Saturday, October 2, 2022, she quietly and peacefully went to meet her Creator. A wake service was held at the community of Our Lady of the Angels, on Thursday, October 6. The funeral Mass for Sister Maria Magdalena Cruz was held, Friday, October 7, at the Mother Caroline Chapel at Trinity Woods, Milwaukee, with Father Leonard Barbian as president. A prayer of remembrance preceded the funeral. Burial followed in the Elm Grove cemetery.

Sister Maria Magdalena is survived by her sister Laura, nieces, nephews, cousins and the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She was preceded in death by her parents, Juan and Magdalena, and her brothers, Lorenzo, Carlos, Ignacio, Francisco, Jesus, Jose, Antonio, Juan, Antonia and her sisters, Ursula, Josefina, Jaime, Rosario, Maria, Brigida, Dorothea, Esther, Magdalena and Martha.

*By Sister Marie Rose Van Deurzen, SSND*



**School Sisters  
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