

Sister Regina Marie Werner, CSA

Sister Regina Marie (Magdalene) Werner, CSA, 91, died on Wednesday, August 26, 2009, in St. Francis Home where she resided.

On July 13, 1918, Magdalene Werner first saw the light of day in Hortonville, Wisconsin, the youngest of six children born to George and Anna (Becher) Werner. Orphaned at a young age, the six were raised by their aunt and uncle, Frank and Clara Werner. The four girls and two boys grew up in a religious home very close to the parish church, Saints Peter and Paul.

Their brother Tim entered the Norbertine Community in DePere, Wisconsin, and Magdalene joined two of her sisters in the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

Magdalene entered the convent in 1932 at the tender age of fourteen, finishing her high school in Fond du Lac before professing her first vows as Sister Regina Marie in 1937. Her name attests to her lifelong love for Mary, the Mother of God, who was her model of love and service. She earned a BS Education degree and later a Library Science Certification from Marian College, with continuing education credits between from various universities. Her fifty-two years of ministry to school children included teaching (36 years) and library work (16 years) in schools from New York to Kansas to Indiana and Wisconsin. When she retired to Boyle Apostolic Center in 1989, Sister Regina Marie found other ways to serve her Agnesian sisters at Nazareth Heights until her own retirement when the Sisters' retirement home moved to Nazareth Court and Center in November of 1998.

Throughout her life Sister Regina Marie was extremely close to her brothers and sisters, a fact explained perhaps by their shared experience of the loss of both parents at an early age. That four of them chose to answer a call to religious life further solidified their bonds and they remained close to the brother and sister who married as well. *Private, direct, simple, quiet, unassuming* are words that come readily to mind to those who experienced Sister. Sisters of St. Agnes share their memories of a young Sister Regina Marie who loved a joke and was easy to be with. Even in her years of pain her smile, when she saw a friend or received a service, illuminated her face. "She would do anything for you," said one Sister who lived with her in her early years of retirement. She was prayerful and attuned to God in her life. In these last years and her last days as she expressed her longing to rejoin her family in heaven, she could still say from her heart that she wanted what God desired for her. God finally answered her prayer as she slipped peacefully into God's embrace Wednesday night.

Sister Regina Marie is survived by a sister-in-law, Charlotte Werner of Appleton, Wisconsin; nieces and nephews; and the Sisters of St. Agnes with whom she lived, prayed, and ministered.



Preceding her in death are her parents, George and Anna; two brothers: Father Tim Werner, O. Praem., and Joseph Werner; and three sisters: Dolores LaValle, Sister Donatilla Werner, CSA, and Sister Georgiana Werner, CSA.

Visitation: Visitation for Sister Regina Marie will be held on Monday, August 31 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:15 p.m. at Nazareth Court and Center, 375 Gillett Street, Fond du Lac. A prayer service will be held at 11:00 a.m.

Services: A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on August 31, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. in the St. Francis Home Chapel, 33 Everett Street, Fond du Lac. Father Ken Smits, OFM Cap, will preside. Burial will follow at St. Joseph Springs Cemetery.

The Sisters of St. Agnes are grateful to the nurses and staff of St. Francis Home and Nazareth Court and Center for their care of Sister Regina Marie in her retirement years.