

## Death Notice

**SISTER LUCIA MARIA**

ND 7128



Lucia BALARDIN

Holy Cross Province, Passo Fundo, RS, Brazil

Date and Place of Birth: December 16, 1962 Maquiné, Osorio, RS  
Date and Place of Profession: January 25, 1990 Passo Fundo, RS  
Date and Place of Death: September 30, 2024 Hospital de Clínicas, Passo Fundo  
Date and Place of Burial: October 01, 2024 Santa Cruz Cemetery, Passo Fundo

***“Be ready, for you do not know the day or the hour in which the Lord will come.”  
(Matthew 25:13)***

Lucia Balardin, the ninth of 12 children born to Angelo Balardin and Corona Catarina Kovalski Balardin, grew up in a farming family. Since childhood, she strengthened her faith within her family. She actively participated in her parish community and sought inspiration in spiritual reading.

During her preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation, the Catechist spoke about vocations, highlighting the value of the sisters' ministries to the poor and suffering. At that moment, Lucia felt the call to dedicate her life to the service of her brothers and sisters. She began to attend vocational meetings, where, with the support of priests, sisters, and other spiritual guides, she strengthened her decision to join a religious congregation. Through dialogue, reflection and prayer, Lucia recognized this vocation as the ideal way to fulfill her desire to serve God's people, especially through evangelization. On February 12, 1988, at the age of 26, she entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Notre Dame, in Passo Fundo.

Following her graduation in Pedagogy and School Administration as well as a Technician in Accounting, Sister Lucia Maria dedicated the first thirteen years of her life to education, ministering in Notre Dame Schools, sometimes as a teacher, sometimes as a segment coordinator and, at times, as a principal. At the same time, Sister Lucia Maria was actively involved in parish work. She carried out her various duties as a catechist and as part of the liturgy team with zeal and joy.

Beginning in 2005, Sister Lucia Maria became the accountant for various Notre Dame hospitals and schools where she coordinated personnel, maintenance, and other general services. She performed these ministries with precision, fidelity, and great dedication. She deeply enjoyed her work and rejoiced in every achievement.

Although Sister sometimes had difficulty integrating herself into groups or exercising leadership, she made an effort to cultivate good friendships, which, together with prayer, gave her the strength needed to renew her daily “yes” to the Lord.

The news of Sister Lucia Maria's unexpected death on September 30 at the age of 61 surprised everyone. Although she had been diagnosed with a case of irreversible cancer and immediately hospitalized, Sister passed away within a few days of her admission.

*May the good and provident God reward  
Sister Lucia Maria for her dedicated life  
and grant her joy and eternal life.*