



Sister Adella Gross

December 9, 1930 - February 17, 2025

Sister Adella Gross, 94 year old resident of Little Falls, MN passed away on Monday, February 17, 2025, at the St. Francis Convent, Little Falls, MN. A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at the St. Francis Convent on Saturday, March 8, 2025 at 11:00 A.M. Friends may call at St. Francis Convent on Saturday from 9:00 A.M. until the time of the funeral. Mass will be live-streamed on YouTube: youtube.com/@FSLFvideos. Donations to Franciscan Sisters ministries are preferred. Caring for Sister Adella and her family is the LeMieur Funeral Home in Little Falls, MN.

Adella Anna Gross was born in Little Falls, MN, on December 9, 1930, to the late Peter and Anna (Weidenbach) Gross, the third of four children in the family. She grew up in Pierz, MN, and attended St. Joseph School in Pierz and St. Francis High School in Little Falls. She joined the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls in 1947. She was a Franciscan Sister for 77 years. Following her profession of vows, she served as an educator, parish minister, missionary and coordinator in various parts of the country and Latin America. Adella had a keen interest in and desire to serve those less fortunate or those in situations of injustice or exploitation. She worked on behalf of economic justice and human rights for a variety of groups but had a special love for the migrant farm workers and their difficult and unappreciated work. She coordinated Ministry to Migrants and Itinerant People for a number of years at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. She came to know and

love families who worked in the circus and always delighted in meeting them “on the road.” She coordinated the publishing of a catechetical resource for those in the circus. Adella loved her Franciscan vocation and was grateful for the many rich opportunities and many blessings her life in the community had given her. She loved her family and enjoyed being in touch with them and took pride in their accomplishments.

Sister Adella was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Carl and Gary; sister, Marie Dombovy; sisters-in-law, Lorraine and Cel; and brother-in-law, Anthony Dombovy. She is survived by her nieces, nephews, extended family and her Franciscan Community.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 8. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Francis Convent
116 8th Avenue SE
Little Falls, MN 56345

Mass of Christian Burial

MAR 8. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Francis Convent
116 8th Avenue SE
Little Falls, MN 56345

Tribute Wall

MN

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Mariani Mathew Nazareth - March 07, 2025 at 05:08 PM

MN

This photo was taken in FSLF during the Nazareths' final visit with Sr. Adela

Mariani Mathew Nazareth - March 07, 2025 at 05:10 PM

“Mariani & I first met Sr. Adela within a year of our beginning the Center for Interfaith Encounter (CiE) in the year Y2K.

We were trying to organize the John Gospel Diversity Fest (JGDF), our first major series on any of the St. Cloud world religions. Our multiple series presented the sacred texts of all the known religions in the area. She assisted us in getting recognition for the JGDF and especially for its main speaker, a young Catholic nun who was a professor at the Pontifical Athenaeum in Pune, India.

Sr. Adela met this Assumption sister in Washington DC, and her support and encouragement only grew stronger. She provided us access to the St. Cloud Chancery and enabled us to have one of eight presentations of JGDF at St. Francis Convent, Little Falls.

Several years later, when CIE offered presentations on "The Basics of Islam" to various Catholic communities in the SC Diocese, Sr. Adela went out of her way to arrange for two such presentations at the churches in Melrose and Freeport.

Mariani & I have a special place for our dear friend Sr. Adela in our hearts because she served tirelessly as an erudite and capable Catholic leader who cherished the spirit and vision of Vatican II. A wise and dedicated daughter of Minnesota, she manifested a great love for the Church and compassionate understanding for the peoples of the world, especially those from Spanish speaking immigrant communities.

In her later years of retirement, we visited Sr. Adela periodically at FSLF. When she was able, we brought her for outings and picnics to Mille Lacs Lake and to visit the grave of her friend Fr. Dave Gallus in Onamia.

She respected me as a married Catholic priest and once even cared/dared to attend and participate in my monthly celebration of the Eucharist in a community church in Harding, MN. We share in

her joy of the Gospel and grieve with all those who deeply mourn her loss.

Malcolm & Mariani Nazareth, St. Cloud, MN

Malcolm J Nazareth - March 07, 2025 at 04:18 PM

SC

“ *I will miss my Saturday night phone calls from Sr. Adela. I first met Adela when I was diocesan director of Native Ministries in Duluth. We met quarterly and shared conversation and a good lunch. Since I moved from Minnesota, Adela never failed to see how I was doing and giving me the support that I cherished. If she wasn't able to call me Saturday she would do so on Sunday. Living alone on the reservation, I greatly appreciated her love, care and support. May Creator bless her richly. And may your memories be your support at this time. How she held each of you in her big heart!*

With sympathy,

Sr. Marie Rose Messingschlager, CDP

Sr. Marie Rose Messingschlager, CDP - February 25, 2025 at 07:01 PM

GZ

“ *Greg And Wendy Zylka sent a virtual gift in memory of Sister Adella Gross*



Greg and Wendy Zylka - February 25, 2025 at 08:08 AM

CM

“ *Claudette Moran lit a candle in memory of Sister Adella Gross*



Claudette Moran - February 21, 2025 at 08:06 PM

CM

Blessed be her memory.

Claudette Moran - February 21, 2025 at 08:06 PM