



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Maria Dolores Fonder

WHO WAS BORN
June 15, 1972
Bogotá, Colombia

AND CALLED TO HER ETERNAL HOME
December 12, 2023
Big Stone City, South Dakota

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL
Friday, December 15, 2023 - 11:00 a.m.
St. Lawrence Catholic Church
Milbank, South Dakota

CELEBRANT
Padre David Garza

MUSICIANS
Bobbi Meyer-Hanson, Organist
St. Lawrence Funeral Choir

CASKET BEARERS
Patrick Fonder | Paul Fonder | Matt Fonder
Malcolm Dirksen | Bill Fonder | John Fonder

HONORARY BEARERS
James and Lynn Rekow | Janelle Kelly | Hisa Kilde

INTERMENT
St. Lawrence Catholic Cemetery
Milbank, South Dakota

APPRECIATION
Maria's family is grateful for your attendance at this service.
Your expressions of kindness and love are deeply appreciated. Following the interment, please join the family for lunch and fellowship at the St. Lawrence dining room.

*Mundwiler Funeral Home
Milbank, South Dakota*

“God definitely has all planned for everyone. If we, as believers, believe in His life, death, and resurrection, and allow Him to show us the way, our souls are going to be in permanent connection with Him; hence, we can feel how well He cares for us and how much He wants us to be happy. God places people and events in our lives for a reason, even the ones that bring us pain or doubt. They happen because there is a bigger plan.”

- Maria Fonder

Maria Dolores Fonder was born on June 15, 1972, in Bogotá, Colombia, to Carlos and Ana (Olave) Cárdenas. She was baptized and confirmed into the Catholic faith. She attended public elementary school and later graduated. She continued her education at National Pedagogic University in Bogotá and graduated in 1998.

In 1999, Maria was selected to work as a Spanish Teaching Assistant in the United States and moved to Robbinsdale, Minnesota, where she lived with her host family, James and Lynn Rekow. After one year, she returned to Colombia and worked as an English Teacher for several years. In 2004, Maria moved back to the United States for another TA program. During the summer of 2005, she came to South Dakota to work on the John Fonder farm where she helped with milking cows, painting, cleaning, and mowing lawn. She would meet Stephen Fonder during her time working on the farm.

Maria married Stephen Fonder on May 27, 2006, at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Milbank, South Dakota. They were blessed with one son, Carlos. The family lived and worked together on the family farm north of Milbank. A teacher at heart, Maria homeschooled Carlos, substitute taught, and spent a year teaching Spanish at Waubay. She loved teaching but her other responsibilities kept her from returning to school to receive her teaching certificate.

Maria was a member of St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Milbank. She enjoyed watching Hallmark Christmas movies, reading, being outside, and helping with chores. She was an integral part of their farm. She was a great hostess and always made sure visitors were fed. She was a person of many talents and adapted well to new environments.

Left to cherish her memory is her husband, Stephen Fonder of Big Stone City, SD; son, Carlos Fonder of Big Stone City, SD; two brothers: Manuel (Gabriela) Cárdenas Olave of Madrid, Colombia; Nicholas Cárdenas Olave (Rafaela) of Madrid, Colombia; mother-in-law, Eileen Fonder of Milbank, SD; brothers-in-law: Paul (Bridget) Fonder of Big Stone City, SD; Patrick Fonder (Mae Ward) of Brooklyn Park, MN; and Robert Fonder of Pocahontas, IA; three nieces; and her host family: James, Lynn, Christian, and Chloe Rekow.

Maria is preceded in death by her parents: Carlos and Ana; father-in-law, Dale Fonder; and sister-in-law, Tina Dahlberg.

Remembering Maria Dolores Fonder

1972 - 2023

