



## Lydia Jean Cross

August 25, 1944 - June 3, 2026

Lydia Jean Cross, born on August 25, 1944, in Bridgewater, Massachusetts, passed away peacefully on June 3, 2026, at the age of 81. She was the youngest of 12 siblings, whose life was marked by remarkable resilience, compassion, and an unwavering dedication to others.

Lydia attended Cape Cod Community College, where she pursued her studies with a passion that reflected her belief in the value of education. For many years, she worked as a self-employed house cleaner, building a reputation not only for her work ethic but also for her caring nature. Lydia's home was filled with love, laughter, and the warmth of a mother's heart, as she raised two sons with her husband, Arthur Cross.

A woman of deep convictions, Lydia had a special gift for nurturing and fostering children, having opened her home to hundreds of boys throughout the years as a foster mother. Her legacy of love extended far beyond her immediate family. After moving to Florida in 2005, Lydia continued her commitment to helping others, becoming an active member of her community and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Most recently, she worked at St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store and volunteered with their food pantry, embodying the spirit of generosity and care that defined her life.

Lydia will be remembered for her tenacious spirit, fiery personality, and

mischievous sense of humor. She approached life with strength and determination, leaving a lasting impression on all who had the privilege of knowing her. Her caring nature touched countless lives, and she will be deeply missed.

To honor her memory and pray for the repose of her soul, a memorial Mass will be held at a future date in St. Augustine, FL,. Her funeral Mass and interment will be held at a future date in Massachusetts.

Lydia was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Anna Almeida, and her siblings, Mary, Paula, Vincincia, Lorraine, Julia, Manuel, and Nicolas. She is survived by sons, Randy Almeida of Port Charlotte, FL, Arthur Cross and his wife Sarah of St. Augustine; grandchildren, Brittany Cross of Tuscaloosa, AL, Sophia Cross of St. Augustine, Alex Cross of St. Augustine; a niece, Julia Peabody of Brockton, MA; and many other extended family members and foster sons.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to St. Vincent de Paul of St. Augustine. St. Johns Family Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.