



SISTER ROSARIO LARA, OLVM

Sister Rosario Lara peacefully entered eternal life at 1:15 a.m. on Friday February 7, 2014. Some members of the nursing staff were with her.

Sister Rosario was born in San Diego, California on April 28, 1916, to Alfred Lara and Celsa Ceseña Lara. She was baptized Rosary Mary Lara on June 21, 1921, at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in San Diego, California.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her four siblings; two brothers, Alfred and Frank Lara, and two sisters, Helen and Mary Lara.

After the death of her mother in 1926, Sister Rosario and her sisters went to live in Nazareth House, an orphanage run by sisters. She lived there and was educated. She told of asking questions during religion class and being told that her questions caused complications. She continued her questions until in desperation the priest slammed the desk and said, "Rosie, keep still. You are talking like a heretic." Sister Rosario continued the story that she stop talking like a heretic, but never stopped thinking like one! It was this inquisitiveness, that helped her to come to the decision that she wanted to teach teenagers who did not attend Catholic high school, religion and not just religion, but teach them to think and encourage them to ask questions. She wanted to help them understand that some questions could not be answered with a simple yes or no.

In her senior year of high school she came across Our Sunday Visitor and saw the ad for a young congregation that visited the poor and taught religion to public school kids. They were catechists and not sisters. She thought this was for her. She wrote Father Sigstein who invited her to come. Come she did, and she entered the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters on August 28, 1935. She made first vows on August 21, 1938. She had been made head cook at Victory Noll, so had to wait before being sent out on mission. Her day came four months later when she was sent with other sisters to help open the new mission at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Salt Lake City, Utah. She served in the missions in Utah for the first nine years and then moved on to missions in Nevada, California, Colorado, Texas, and Arizona. Sister returned to Victory Noll in 2003 to volunteer in the Audio Library.

Sister Rosario's love of learning and of asking questions continued throughout her life. She received her Bachelor's degree from St. Mary of the Lake in San

Antonio, Texas in 1969. She earned her Master's degree in Religious Education from Notre Dame Seminary, School of Theology in New Orleans, Louisiana. Those were the formal classes. She also took advantage of workshops and other opportunities for learning. She enjoyed attending the Southwest Liturgical Conference and at one of the conferences was recognized for her faithful attendance.

In 1973, she was asked by the Bishop of Salt Lake City, Utah, to return and organize the Diocesan Youth Office. A few years later, Sister Rosario left the Diocese of Salt Lake City and went to work in the Diocesan Office of Religious Education for the Diocese of Amarillo, Texas.

By the time that Sister Rosario retired for the fifth time in 2003, she had worked in 29 parishes, at Fort Sam Houston, in seven Diocesan offices, six Religious Education offices and one Youth office as well as three different detention centers. In all her 65 years of service, she always helped people to grow in their love of God and to question, search and learn. She taught many teenagers to think, question and find God.

On Thursday evening, February 13, 2014, the community gathered for the wake of Sister Rosario. On Friday morning, February 14, 2014, her life was celebrated with the Eucharistic liturgy. Father Dale Bauman was the presider and homilist. He took Sister Rosario's name and compared it to the mysteries of the Rosary, a devotional prayer that was very special to her. Her life showed forth through her name, Rosario — the mysteries of the rosary. The joyful mysteries are shown by the way she brought joy to others in helping them to see they were loved and cherished in the eyes of God — the sorrowful mysteries, with those who mourn or were in agony or despair and by walking with those in detention centers and prisons. The luminous mysteries are the light of the Gospel she taught to all.

Sister Rosario, you have helped many to ask questions, to probe deep into their relationship with God. Now may you know all the answers to your questions and forever enjoy the rewards of your good and faithful service.

In the peace of Christ,



Sister Ginger Downey, OLVM

