



SISTER LUCY MARIE VEGA, OLVM, died quietly on August 22, 2019, at 4:30 PM, at Saint Anne at Victory Noll, she had just celebrated her 95th birthday on August 16.

Sister Lucy Marie was born in Mason City, Iowa, on August 16, 1924, to Leon Vega and Maria Perez Vega. She was the sixth of nine children and the second daughter. Her five brothers, Louis, Jesus Estevan, Daniel, Raymond, Philip and one adopted brother, Albert Chavez, and two sisters, Rufina Sanchez and adopted sister, Mary Chavez Sanchez, precede sister in death. Two brothers, Peter Vega of Mason City, Iowa, and Raul (Ron) Vega of East Vale, California, survive sister.

Although Sister Lucy Marie's birth certificate indicates Lucy as her name, she was baptized Mary Louise on September 27, 1924, at Holy Family Catholic Church. She graduated from Holy Family Catholic High School. The May 26, 1943, issue of the *Silhouette*, the high school newspaper, said about Sister Lucy Marie, "Tiny, but shiny along the scholastic line ... if you ever need a favor — ask brown-eyed Lucy." "Tiny, but shiny" remained two adjectives that described her until the end and she continued to be one to fulfill favors if she was able.

After high school, Sister Lucy Marie worked as a sales clerk and did office work while helping to care for her younger brothers and adopted sister. Once her siblings were able to take care of themselves, she entered the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters on January 6, 1955. She made first vows on August 5, 1957, taking the name of Sister Leo Marie. Her first mission was Lubbock, Texas. It is quite interesting that the medal she received at profession was under the title of *Nuestra Señora de la Luz* (Our Lady of the Light). After Lubbock, she served in El Paso and San Antonio before making final profession on August 5, 1963. In her letter to Sister Florentine, Mother General at the time, she stated, "I will strive for humility and holiness."

Sister Lucy Marie worked in Religious Education in Ohio and Arizona until 1969, when moved back to Indiana to attend St. Francis College in Fort Wayne. She graduated with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Social Service. She served the Community as Area Coordinator for the Southwest from 1971-1973.

In 1978, she received her Master's degree in Aging from North Texas State University in Denton, Texas, with an emphasis on program planning and implementation. After graduation, she returned to Victory Noll set up the Life Planning and Development Program. In 1983, she moved to Cheyenne, Wyoming, to work in Religious Education. Once again the Community called her to serve as the Coordinator of the local OLV M community and then Administrator for the Holy Family Health Care building.

The missionary spirit called Sister Lucy Marie to move to Arizona in 1993, where she became a core group member for the Victory Noll Center in Littleton. The “little” town was mostly Hispanic and covered a one square mile area. The residents, cut off from the drug and gang violence of nearby Tucson, also lacked services of the city and Church. Littleton was a perfect place for a Victory Noll Center to promote mutual support and faith among the members of this tiny community. The core group set up religious education, along with English and citizenship classes. Through home visits and conversations, many adults became comfortable with their faith and were able to attend Mass. Through this work, lay leaders were encouraged to take on leadership roles to meet the spiritual needs of the families.

In 1997, Sister Lucy Marie left Tucson and the ministry of Littleton to become the Congregational Archivist, a position she held until she retired in 2008 to volunteer. While she was serving as Archivist, she also was the first director of the Victory Noll Center for one year as the Center was being formed.

As many know, Sister Lucy Marie loved to cook and she always shared whatever she produced. Many remember her baking cookies for community events like the Co-workers and sisters gatherings. She was also known for her rum balls. Her mother’s tortilla recipe held special meaning for her and she used it when preparing a Mexican meal. Others have tried making these recipes but they never quite measured up to Sister Lucy Marie’s level.

Although she had a deep devotion to our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Light was with her as well, as her love of life and her inner light never left her. She was always bright and gracious.

The community gathered for Sister Lucy Marie’s vigil on August 26, 2019, and the funeral liturgy was August 27, 2019. Both services were at Archbishop Noll Memorial Chapel on the grounds of Victory Noll.

Sister Lucy Marie, you did live in humility and now live in holiness.

With Gratitude and Blessings,



Sr. Ginger Downey, O.L.V.M

