



SISTER CARLOTA BACA, OLVM

Sister Carlota passed very quickly and peacefully into eternal glory on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12, 2013.

Sisters Mary Adele Massaro, Mary Jo Maes and Connie

Lewandowski went into her room after the 3rd floor sing-along and sang Las Manañitas to her. Shortly after they left her room,

she quietly breathed her last and was gone. What a beautiful day for her to go home to God, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sister Carlota was born in Peña Blanca, New Mexico on January 5, 1909, to Esquipula and Isabelita Romero Baca. She was baptized Carlota Estela the next day, January 6, 1909, in the church of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Peña Blanca, part of the beauty of her life-long connection to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

She is preceded in death by her parents, three brothers, Celestino, Delfin and Esquipula, Jr. and by five sisters, Piedad, Chonita, Margarita, Manuelita, and Rebecca.

A letter of reference to Father Sigstein from her pastor in Peña Blanca dated September 16, 1927, states, “ She (Carlota) has always expressed her desire of serving Almighty God in his poor and we sincerely hope that she will find that happiness which we can expect on this earth in her vocation as a Missionary Catechist.”

Sister Carlota was an aspirant at Victory Mount in Las Vegas, New Mexico, before she came to Huntington, Indiana to the Victory Training Institute, later named Victory Noll. She entered the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, known at that time as Missionary Catechists of Our Blessed Lady of Victory, on October 28, 1928, and made first vows on April 4, 1932, in Las Vegas, New Mexico. She served in the missions in New Mexico, Texas, California, Arizona, Utah, and Colorado.

Sister Carlota had many different missions, and in 1968 she went to Nogales, Arizona, where she was involved in religious education for the next 10 years. In 1978, she went back to her beloved New Mexico, a place where she once wrote was “full of life and prayer.” She stayed in Santa Fe until she retired in 2003. During that time, she taught religious education, trained lectors, prepared children for first communion, and visited the homebound. She translated for Spanish-speaking patients who needed medical care, and gave tips to seminarians about how to make religion real to village dwellers in

Mexico. Sister Carlota said, "The journey as a missionary sister has been a very enriching experience for me. In each mission I met beautiful people who so generously participated in the work of the church in bringing about the reign of God."

In a newspaper article recounting her 70th Jubilee in 1988, one of her colleagues said, "I think that as a religious sister she is giving witness to living the gospel values as a committed way of life. She empowers people in the parish to do many things."

After serving at St. John's the Baptist in Santa Fe for 25 years, she returned to Victory Noll to retire and volunteer. She spent several years as a companion to her sister, Rebecca, who joined Sister Carlota at Victory Noll until her death in 2009.

Sister Carlota's nephew, Raymond Valdez, and his wife Theresa were able to join us for the funeral on Monday, December 16, 2013. In his homily, Father Dale Bauman made a wonderful connection to Sr. Carlota's middle name, Estela, meaning star, and the Feast of Epiphany on which she was baptized. He spoke about how the star was the guiding light for three kings to find the Messiah and how in all of her life, through her actions, kindnesses and reaching out to others, she brought them to Jesus as well. Father Bauman went on to say that it is the little things that we do that put the bigger things in perspective. It is those little things, the good deeds, the kind words, the encouragement and empowerment that help each of us find the Christ Child in the manger for ourselves.

Sister Carlota, from the moment of your baptism you have been a guiding light helping to bring others to deepen their understanding of their faith and to grow in their relationship with God. May you now experience the glories of that "star" and bask in its light in a new and everlasting way.

In the light of Christ,



Sr. Ginger Downey, OLVM

