



SISTER MARIA MARGARITA MORENO-PATINO, OLVM, 85, a resident of Saint Anne Communities at Victory Noll, died September 29, 2020, at Saint Anne Communities at Victory Noll, Huntington, Indiana.

Sister Margarita was born in Parita Provincia de Herrera, Panama, on January 13, 1935, to Pedro Moreno and Manuela Patino Moreno. Preceding her in death are her four brothers, Sergio Moreno, Jose Moreno Patino, Rodolfo Moreno Patino and Pedro Moreno Patino; and two sisters, Felicidad Moreno-Patino, Elva Moreno. Her nieces and nephews, both in Panama and in the United States, survive her. Her Victory Noll Sisters, with whom she shared life and community for 22 years, also survive Sister Margarita.

Sister Margarita entered the Panamanian Congregation, Misioneras Catequistas de la Medalla Milagrosa (Missionary Catechists of the Miraculous Medal) in 1954. In 1948, the founder of this new missionary congregation, Bishop Francisco Beckmann, asked Mother Catherine Oberding, the Superior General of the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, to send Sisters to Panama to help with the formation of the first five Sisters. This was the beginning of the relationship between the two congregations. After entering the Misioneras Catequistas, Sister Margarita met two of the first Victory Noll Sisters to go to Panama, Sister Monica Ulibarri and Sister Mary Bernarda Marquez. The three formed significant relationships that lasted over many years and endured across many miles.

During her years with the Misioneras Catequistas, Sister Margarita had many opportunities to serve her religious congregation and also the Archdiocese of Panama. She worked very closely with Archbishop Marcos McGrath, CSC, during his time as Archbishop of Panama. According to the article written for *La Estrella de Panama* by her nephew, Pedro, she served as the director of Liturgy and Catechesis as well as the Vice President of the Latin American Religious Conference. While serving as director, she was responsible for the Eucharist Liturgy for Pope John Paul II during his visit to Panama in 1983. Besides meeting Pope John Paul II, Sister Margarita said one of her most precious memories was hosting Mother Teresa of Calcutta during her visit to Panama in 1982.

Archbishop McGrath saw Sister Margarita as a person with a keen mind and the desire to learn. He presented her with the opportunity to study liturgy at the Catholic University in Lille, France, and at the Pastoral Institute in Brugge, Belgium. This gave Sister Margarita a firm foundation to help in the evangelization of the people of Panama, especially in understanding the documents and doctrine of the Second Vatican Council. This was something she would continue to teach throughout the rest of her life.

Sister Margarita served twice as the Congregational Leader for the Misioneras Catequistas and lived their mission and charism for 43 years before she asked to transfer to the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters. She was accepted on October 19, 1998, and completed the transfer of her vows on June 16, 2002.

Sister Margarita moved to San Bernardino in 1998. While studying to learn English, she assisted Victory Noll Sister Lucille Martinez, with whom she lived, in helping to instruct young Hispanic adults in the RCIA process. This was her introduction to the Cathedral parish of Holy Rosary. She continued to do adult formation, working with catechist training, faith formation for parents of children preparing to receive sacraments, and renewal weekends for the parish. In 2004, she joined the base community development team to build the foundation for the RENEW process that was beginning in the diocese. This new adventure brought her into the 21st century by teaching her classes virtually — something we all have come to understand so well during the last 7 months with the restrictions of the pandemic.

Sister Margarita returned to Victory Noll 2014 where she continued on-going adult formation for parishes in the Diocese of Fort Wayne/South Bend and at Victory Noll Center. She also wanted to write her life story, but she was unable to finish. She did find ways to share her gifts among the Sisters and residents at Saint Anne Communities at Victory Noll, most notably her love of picking and arranging flowers. She never lost her love for Panama nor her love for teaching and evangelizing.

Sister Margarita's two nieces, Iliana Beal and Annie Moreno, joined the Victory Noll Sisters as we honored and celebrated her funeral on October 3, 2020. We are still in the COVID restrictions and her funeral took place in Our Lady of Victory Chapel. Sister Mary Jo Nelson presided and Sister Lucille Martinez gave the reflection and eulogy.

May you, Sister Margarita, experience in fullness all you taught and receive eternal life for sharing your many gifts with the People of God. Vaya Con Dios!

With Gratitude and blessings,



Sr. Ginger Downey, OLVM