

## **SISTER TIOLINDA MAROTTA, CDP**

Sister Tiolinda Marotta, CDP, entered eternal life on October 7, 2016 at the age of 86. She was the second youngest of six children born to Herlinda Gonzalez and Joseph Marotta, Sr. A native San Antonian, Sister Tiolinda was born on September 10, 1930 and entered the Sisters of Divine Providence after 12 years attending San Fernando School. She professed first vows on June 22, 1953, and began her ministerial life at Holy Family School in El Paso.

Sister was always very close to her family and treasured her heritage. She wrote, "Being bilingual and bicultural, I inherited the strong work ethic of my [Italian American] father and the kind, gentle love of tradition of my [Mexican American] mother." She felt fortunate to have the strong and unselfish love and support of her siblings and their families.

Sister Tiolinda came to be known as a remarkable educator. She earned a B.S. in Education and a M.Ed., both at OLLU, and worked in education for 57 years. Most of her teaching was in the primary grades, but she also taught middle grades and some high school Spanish. Short of stature, though great of heart, Sister found herself having to look up at some of her high school students. She decided that the elementary grades were her calling.

Sister's 35 years serving in Texas were spent in El Paso, Harlingen, Bellmead-Waco, San Antonio, Laredo and Bryan. She taught in Oklahoma for 11 years in Enid and Lawton. Her most challenging, and ultimately very rewarding, educational experience occurred in Natchitoches, Louisiana. She had a class that tested her endurance almost to the limit. Her expertise as a teacher and her genuine care for the students won them over and her reputation spread throughout the school and much more broadly.

Sister Tiolinda's loving personality, her gentleness and genuine care for others made her beloved by many. She will be missed.

She is survived by her brother Vincent Marotta (Elsa), sister-in-law Rosemary (wife of Jesse) and all her other Sisters of Divine Providence. She is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, and their families. She was preceded in death by her parents Joseph and Herlinda Marotta and siblings Adelina San Martin (Dr. Jose), Jesse Marotta, Joseph Marotta (Josephine) and Henry Marotta.

The Rosary and Wake are on Monday, October 10 at 4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., respectively. A Mass of Resurrection will be on Tuesday, October 11 at 10:30 a.m. All services will be in Annunciation Chapel at Our Lady of the Lake Convent.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Sisters of Divine Providence, 515 S.W. 24<sup>th</sup> Street, San Antonio, TX 78207-4619.