

SISTER ALEXIA VINKLAREK, CDP
1925 - 2018



Sister Alexia Vinklarek, CDP, entered eternal life on September 9, 2018 at 93 years of age. She was one of nine children born to Alex and Frances (Mares) Vinklarek. Baptized Veronica Frances, she was born September 2, 1925 in Cistern, Texas.

Sister Alexia became interested in religious life when a Sister from her catholic school made a suggestion to consider it. Upon learning about her interest, her brother, who was a seminarian at the time, visited all the convents in San Antonio. The warm welcome he received from the Sisters of Divine Providence, their devotion to prayer, and the opportunity Veronica would have to earn an education led him to suggest Our Lady of the Lake Convent. She too was impressed by those Sisters, prayed about her choice, and entered the convent in 1940 to finish her high school education. She professed first vows on June 22, 1946.

Prayer was central to Sister Alexia's life. Her positive and welcoming personality and attitude helped her appreciate the many changes in the 65 years of her ministerial life. She welcomed each change as a way to use her gifts to "best serve people and the world in general." Every ministry was a learning tool and opportunity for growth. She loved both the formal prayers during her first 20 years as a CDP and the post Vatican II "informal" prayers that encouraged more scripture, nature, music, and retreats.

She earned her Bachelor and Masters of Arts in Education from Our Lady of the Lake College in San Antonio, Texas during the summer months of her initial ministry as a teacher. Subsequently earning certification as a principal and counselor, she became principal in various Texas schools. After 30 years in education and administration, she served the Congregation as Coordinator of its Moye Retreat Center in Castroville, Texas, Vocation Director, and Wedding Coordinator for Sacred Heart Conventual Chapel. During those years she left to serve the Archdiocese of San Antonio as Director of the Holy Childhood Missioning Office and Director of Religious Education in Edna, Texas and Duncan, Oklahoma. All these ministries and her retirement in 2011 were accepted with grace, gentleness, and a grateful heart. One of her favorite prayers was "Providence of God, I resign myself to You. As You desire, so shall I live and die for You." Sister Alexia is surely enjoying her final, new and glorious chapter of eternal life.

She is survived by two siblings: Edna Migi and Gladys Holub, numerous nieces and nephews, their families, and her Sisters of Divine Providence. She was preceded in death by her parents Alex and Frances Vinklarek and siblings: Reverend Emil Vinklarek, Alex Vinklarek, Jr., Emily Barta, Helen Kubacek, Margaret Raemsch, and Carolyn Zurovec.

The Rosary is Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. and the Wake is at 6:30 p.m. A Mass of Resurrection will be Friday, September 14, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. All services will be in Annunciation Chapel at Our Lady of the Lake Convent Center.

In lieu of flowers, you may wish to make a memorial contribution to the Sisters of Divine Providence, 515 S.W. 24th Street, San Antonio, TX 78207-4619.