



Sister Tomasa Marcos, CSJ

June 19, 1930- April 29, 2019

Remembering

Sister Tomasa [formerly Sr.Philomena Mary] Marcos was born in Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii, on June 19, 1930, the fourth of six children. Her parents were Platon and Calesta (Doropan) Marcos, and the family eventually included brothers Jose, Anacleto, and Bernard, and sisters Virginia and Philomena. Tomasa's mother died when she was five years old, and her father never remarried.

She was baptized and made her first communion at St. Elizabeth Church in Aiea, and was confirmed at St. Joseph Church, Waipahu. She attended Aiea Elementary School, August Ahrens Elementary, and Waipahu Elementary, and graduated from Waipahu High School in 1949.

As a teenager, at the invitation of Mina (Sister Margarita Marie) Ringor, she was active in the St. Joseph (Waipahu) Parish

Sodality and choir and volunteered as a church cleaner. It was in this latter position where she first met the CSJs. She told a parish priest that she wanted to join the Maryknoll Sisters, but he referred her to the CSJs at the convent. She traveled to Los Angeles for the first time with Papaniana (Sister Carmen) Paas, and Remiya (Sister Teresa Ann) Coronas. She was accepted as a Postulant in February of 1950, and as a Novice in August of that same year. Tomasa made her first vows in 1952 and final vows in 1957. She earned a B.A. degree in English at Mount St. Mary's College along with teaching credentials, and later her certificates in Religious Education in Hawaii.

Her mission assignments included two separate teaching positions at St. Patrick School in Oakland, CA, in grades 1-4, nine years at Our

Lady of Peace Academy in San Diego as cook for boarders and Sisters on retreats, and eight years at Our Lady of Angels in San Diego teaching grade 3. She then returned home to Hawaii, serving from 1976 to 1990 at Holy Trinity School as vice principal and grade three teacher. Tomasa took a year's sabbatical in St. Paul, MN, and again returned to Holy Trinity School until 2010, serving a various capacities including teacher, vice principal, and librarian. After that year, she had the ministry of prayer and witness.

Tomasa had a wonderful sense of humor and a great laugh, which she used often. She loved

playing Scrabble and Solitaire, sewing, doing a variety of arts and crafts, enjoyed gardening, and liked to travel. One special trip was to Ireland with her good friend, Sr. Anita Marie Rosco. Tomasa also spent time attending enrichment classes at Chaminade University in Honolulu, and a variety of classes offered by the Honolulu Diocesan catechetical department.

Tomasa spent her last years at an assisted living facility in Honolulu, along with Sr. Anita Marie. There she made new friends, and enjoyed the visits of both sisters and 'Ohana members, particularly Maki Gallagher. Mid-weekly trips to Mass, followed by lunch and a long ride compliments of Sisters Ann Faber and Marcie were special treats.

Sister Tomasa is survived by the CSJs, her sisters-in-law Mary and Florence Marcos, nephews Bernard, Michael, and Mark Marcos, and their families. ❖

Written by Sister Mary Kathleen Dugar, CSJ

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A Sister of St Joseph of Carondelet
for 69 years

*My beloved spoke
and said to me,
Arise,
my beloved,
my beautiful one,
and come!*

~ Song of Songs, 2:10

