



In Loving Memory

Sister Marsha Jean Diaz Nededog, SSND

Sister Marsha Jean was born on December 3, 1961 in Tamuning, Guam, to Sebastian and Maria (Diaz) Nededog, and was baptized Marcia at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Agat, Guam. She was the fifth of nine children born to the family.

After attending kindergarten in a public school, Marcia’s parents transferred her to Our Lady of Mount Carmel School where she was taught by School Sisters of Notre Dame. Marcia helped with the care of her younger siblings and with homemaking tasks. She liked working with children. It was during her freshman year that she volunteered with the sisters. As a teenager, she became involved in catechetical work, including preparing children for the First Holy Communion. She developed hobbies: writing letters, reading, singing, playing guitar and piano, bike riding, softball and volleyball. She attended George Washington Senior High School, graduating in 1979.

In 1980, Marcia signed up for the SSND affiliate program. Two years after graduation, she worked as a receptionist for the Department of Labor but soon shifted to being a teacher’s aide at J.P Torres Elementary School where she worked for five years. She continued to study and progress in the stages of preparing for religious life as a postulant and novice.

Sister Marsha Jean professed her first vows on September 25, 1989. She earned a B.A. in elementary education in 1995 from the University of Guam, Mangilao, Guam. She made her perpetual vows on September 3, 1995. As a School Sisters of Notre Dame, she served as an elementary school teacher at San Vicente, Barrigada and St. Francis, Yona. Named as vice principal at St. Francis, Yona in 2001, she was appointed principal the following year, leading the school for 10 years.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sister Marsha Jean on November 15 at St. Francis Church in Yona with Msgr. David C. Quitugua, vicar general for the Archdiocese of Agana, presiding. In his homily, he reflected on sister’s faith-filled life. – “This is how Faith acts in our lives. It starts out small, almost insignificant, and then grows.” He noted how she “suffered with cancer and was given the strength not to complain about the suffering and the pain that her illness caused her.”

Sister Marsha Jean is survived by her mother Maria, brothers, Paul (Beatrice), Joseph (Evelyn) and Patrick (Valerie); sisters, Mary (Lou) Gumataotao, Mae (Raymond) Serineo, Julie (Vince) Manglona, Rosine Nededog & Corinne Topasna; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews; other relatives, friends and the SSND Community. She was preceded in death by her father Sebastian and her sister Carmen.

Sister Marsha Jean is remembered by friends and community members as a warm and joyful person who loved to learn new things. During the end of her stay with the Notre Dame of Elm Grove community, she experienced a very strong yearning to return home to Guam. She wanted to prepare and

Birth
December 3, 1961

Baptism
December 17, 1961

Profession
September 25, 1989

Death
November 7, 2012

Burial
Holy Cross Cemetery
Togcha, Guam

*Precious and blessed is
the death of the faithful
before God... for
they die in union with
their dear Jesus, in the
grace of God, in peace.*

Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger
Foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame
Letter 11, September 10, 1831

continued

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be present for the celebration of her Mother's 80th birthday. She wanted to resume her work as principal of St. Francis School.

On December 3 – what would have been her 51st birthday – a Memorial Mass was held for Sister Marsha Jean in the Holy Family Chapel at Notre Dame of Elm Grove in Wisconsin, where she lived while receiving medical treatment. Following are some highlights excerpted from the reflection presented by Sister Elizabeth Marie Hoell, SSND.

“It was my privilege to witness Marsha's heart expanding – more and more – at each new revelation of God's love. ...

“Marsha was very concerned that people would understand the Chamorro culture – of which she was so proud. Many of us remember the evening in August when our Island Sisters shared with us various traditions which enriched their growing-up years. We recall Marsha performing a graceful Island dance. ...

“Another aspect of Chamorro culture is a great devotion to Mary, especially under the title: *Our Lady of Kamalen*. ...

“And with the devotion to Mary, comes the importance of pilgrimage. Pilgrimage to Holy Hill was very important to Sister Marsha. On the last weekend before flying back home, Marsha asked: “Liz, – one more time? Will you take me to Holy Hill?” Following her lead, we spent an hour of quiet adoration in the Blessed Sacrament chapel there before Marsha made a move to leave. I had gone with her several other times, but this Sunday, her heart seemed to be in a very different space.

“In our Gospel today, a portion from John 6:37-40, we read: ‘All that the Father gives me, shall come to me.’ ...

“The time of treatment and healing seemed at times to stretch on endlessly. Marsha had things TO DO: why was she HERE? ...

“In God's time – Marsha was able to return to her Island, her People and her School. As principal of St. Francis School, Yona, Marsha was highly respected. She had a gift for enabling others to develop their gifts. She allowed staff to carry our assignments without interfering/second-guessing them.

“In the week after this gala birthday celebration for her mother, Marsha's health deteriorated rapidly. She became unresponsive, was taken to the emergency room, testing was done, Marsha's family arrived – and Marsha returned to the God whom she loved and served so well. ...

“The words in *You Are Sent*, par. 47 and 48, have become a reality for Sister Marsha Jean Nededog. ‘Created for total union with God, we strive to become ever more united with Him as we move into the future. ... We see death as an act of human worship; in dying, we proclaim God, God, and ourselves, creatures. ... In death, we say our ultimate human yes to our Creator.’

“Marsha, thank you for gifting us – for a time – with your presence, your beautiful spirit and your energy. All the longings of your heart are finding fulfillment – as we speak!”

Compiled by Mary Conarchy, Mission Advancement Department