

# *In Loving Memory*

## Sister Celly Ann Amparano



**Birth**  
December 21, 1947

**Baptism**  
March 21, 1948

**Profession**  
July 1, 1979

**Death**  
October 16, 2019

**Burial**  
Sancta Maria in Ripa  
Cemetery, St, Louis, MO

*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

Sister Celly Ann Amparano, 71, passed away at Barnes-Jewish Hospital, St. Louis, on October 16, 2019. She was the third of four girls born to Mercedes (Castro) and Manuel Amparano on December 21, 1947, in Fresno, California. She was baptized on March 21, 1948 at St. Therese Church, Fresno, CA and named Celly Ann.

Her father was a rancher working mostly in cotton and irrigation and her mother was a beautician. Since they did not have many close neighbors, the four girls depended on each other for companionship. When Celly Ann was eight years old, her maternal grandmother came to live with them. Her parents were religious people but her grandmother made sure that the girls said their prayers at bed time. The children would often fall asleep listening to their grandmother praying her Rosary.

Celly Ann attended McKinley Elementary School in Fresno County and McKinley's extension of the seventh and eighth grade, El Capitan School. She was involved in a number of activities and became student body president, the first Mexican-American to hold that position. She enrolled in Central Union High School.

During her youth, Celly Ann worked in the fields picking figs and cutting grapes to make money for school clothes. Later, she worked at Kentucky Fried Chicken for a year and then became a teaching assistant at Teague Elementary. She graduated from California State College, Fresno, California, in 1974 with a bachelor degree in Social Science. She obtained her California Teaching Credential in 1975.

The next school year, she began teaching at St. Helen School in Fresno, where she met the School Sisters of Notre Dame. The following summer, she drove to St. Louis with Sister Nancy Flamm and participated in the GIFT program at New Madrid, Missouri. This experience of prayer, community and sharing brought great peace to her and she realized that she was being called to be a sister.

Celly Ann entered the postulancy on September 4, 1977, and lived in community at St. Bernadette's, Lemay, Missouri, for four months. On January 23, 1978, she was received into the novitiate and lived at Sancta Maria in St. Louis, for her canonical year. She was missioned to Holy Angels, East St. Louis, Illinois, for her mission experience. She made first promises on July 1, 1979, and final vows on December 21, 1985, at St. Helen, Fresno, California, on her 38th birthday.

Sister Celly Ann taught junior high students at Holy Angels, East St. Louis, Illinois; St. Marianne de Paredes, Pico Rivera, California and Santa Isabel, Los Angeles. She received a master's degree in Education - Administration from the University of San Francisco in 1993. She was principal for 33 years at: Santa

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*Sister Celly Ann Amparano*



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Isabel, Los Angeles; St. Philip of Jesus, San Antonio, Texas; St. George, Linn, Missouri, and St. Mary School, Frankenstein, Missouri. In 1999, she received the NCEA Distinguished Principal Award.

In 2014, Sister Celly Ann became a consultant for the Hispanic Outreach in the Jefferson City, Missouri, diocese for 2 years. She was in music ministry at St. Peter, Jefferson City, Missouri, for one year and then became a certified medical interpreter at El Puente, Jefferson City, Missouri. In this role, Sister Celly Ann helped those who did not know English to communicate with doctors and health care providers during appointments and hospital visits.

In 2017, Sister Celly Ann was diagnosed with multiple myeloma. She began stem cell transplant therapy in 2018. After a valiant battle, she passed away on October 16, 2019 as sisters prayed with her.

A wake service was held at Theresa Center on October 21, 2019. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated the following morning with Bishop Emeritus John Gaydos of the Jefferson City, Missouri, diocese presiding. Attending the funeral services were her sister, Anita Hoth and husband, Dave; her SSND sister in community, Sister Barbara Neist; classmates, SSND, friends and colleagues from the Jefferson City diocese. She is survived by her sisters, Anita (Dave) Hoth of Alta Loma, California; Mary (Ron) Gonzales of Las Vegas, Nevada and Gloria Amparano of Fresno, California; nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents.

A memorial Mass was celebrated at St. George, Linn, Missouri on November 8, 2019.

The granddaughter of Mexican immigrants, Sister Celly Ann learned Spanish at home and as a SSND was very proud of her Hispanic heritage. Using her Spanish skills she was able to journey with persons who needed to feel respected and encouraged them to reach their potential. She was remembered as a positive, affirming person who was open to newness in various cultures, liturgy, etc. Music was very important to her; she played the guitar for liturgy and for social gatherings. In Jefferson City, she began a girls' choir. Her hopeful, welcoming presence influenced many who came in contact with her. May she now rejoice in her new life with her God.

*By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND*