



## **Eulogy of Sister Marcelia Maglinte, BVM**

Mary Frances Clarke Chapel, July 9, 2024

Good afternoon! It is good to be together to celebrate the life of our Sister Marcelia Maglinte.

Josephine Maglinte, Sopeng to her family, was born March 2, 1939, in Kealia, Kaua'i, Hawaii, the eighth of the nine daughters of Demetrio and Marcela (Boca) Maglinte. "My parents . . . left the island of Siquijor of the Philippines for a new life in the 'land of opportunity' in 1923. My father was promised a job and a house for his family. [He] worked for the Lihu'e Sugar Company until he retired in 1965. My mother was always a [homemaker] except when she could work in the pineapple cannery during the summer months. An aunt or older sisters always took care of us younger siblings during the summer until we were old enough to work in the pineapple industry."

"My mother was very religious and instilled in us a sense of respect and awe towards anything related to church. Growing up on Kaua'i in the 1940s and 1950s was very simple. I remember getting together with relatives and friends quite often at the beach. We have a great love of the life at the beach."

In 1946, Josephine became a student in the first second-grade class at St. Catherine Elementary School, the newly opened BVM school in Kealia, Hawaii. When Josephine was in fifth grade, a movie about the life of Sister Frances Xavier Cabrini inspired her to consider religious life. "I felt a call to do something with children, like she did," she shared. Josephine attended public high school but was involved in the St. Catherine's Sodality, the St. Catherine's choir, and the Filipino Catholic Club.

Josephine entered the BVM congregation on Aug. 2, 1957, and received the name Marcelia at her reception on Feb. 3, 1958. She professed first vows on Feb. 3, 1960, and lived 66 years as a BVM. After profession, she was sent to the Scholasticate in Chicago where she completed a bachelor's degree in Spanish with a minor in elementary education from Mundelein College.

Marcelia was missioned as an elementary teacher at St. Anthony, in Missoula, Mont.; Presentation, in Stockton, Calif.; Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Bartholomew in Chicago; St. Bernard in Los Angeles; St. Patrick in Carlsbad, Calif.; and St. Joseph in Round Lake, Ill., where she also worked in the learning center.

In 1983, she returned to her homeland to teach at Kapa'a Elementary School and serve as director of religious education at her home parish of St. Catherine. She later taught at Kapa'a High School and International School. She traveled to Madrid, Spain, on a renewal grant in 1989. Afterwards, she returned to Kapa'a and taught at Kilauea Elementary School.

Marcelia spent the 1994-95 school year volunteering at Santa Clara Elementary School in Santa Clara, Calif., while studying at Santa Clara University. She returned to Hawaii, this time to Kahului on Maui, where she taught at Maui Waena Intermediate School and Lihikai Elementary School.

Marcelia retired from full-time teaching in 2013, but she still had the energy and desire to work. She substituted in both public and Catholic schools, working one-on-one mostly with children with special needs. She

volunteered with an organization that offered support services to senior citizens such as providing rides to appointments or for errands. In addition, she volunteered at Christ the King Parish and distributed Holy Communion to hospitalized and homebound parishioners. Marcelia also enjoyed a little gardening growing herbs and even a few orchids.

Marcelia's Hawaiian culture was never lost on those with whom she came in contact. Her artistry and crafting explored the touches of her heritage. She was an excellent hula dancer, very graceful, and the movements were taught to anyone who wanted to learn. Even when volunteering in the kitchen at Damien House in Guayaquil, Ecuador, she spent quality time with patients teaching the traditional Hawaiian dances and how to make paper leis. Leis were a part of every good celebration. Marcelia loved music, especially Hawaiian music, and once here at Mount Carmel Bluffs, she became an active Schola member. She also was a member of the Sisters Development Network writing letters to donors. Of course, wherever she was and whatever she was doing, she freely shared her wonderful smile and great laugh with everyone.

At the time of her Golden Jubilee, Marcelia commented, "I cannot complain. God has been and is good. I enjoyed every place I taught. . . I loved my friends and coworkers both in the parochial and public schools. We treated each other as professionals and respected one another's differences. . . I have managed to travel to Spain, Rome, Vienna, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Puerto Rico, and Mexico. . . Life is good."

During the 2023 Catholic Sisters Week, Marcelia's niece Lori Corcoran Mendoza answered a request for BVM sister shoutouts. She wrote, "My shoutout goes to Sister Marcelia Maglinte (my Auntie Sopeng through marriage)! She is such a remarkable person who demonstrates such strength and possesses such deep faith! Much love from the Mendoza family! May God bless you."

Marcelia's years of dedicated, loving service touched many lives. The strength and faith she displayed during her times of illness were inspiring. St. Paul wrote, "Because of our faith, Christ has brought us to the grace in which we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to the day on which we will become all that God has intended." (Roman 5:2). For Marcelia, that day has come. She is whole and healthy, filled with peace and joy in her eternal, heavenly home in the presence of Jesus and all her deceased beloved. To quote Marcelia, "God has been and is good."