



Eulogy of Sister Linda (Frances Joan) Quinones, BVM
Mary Frances Clarke Chapel, Oct. 30, 2024

Good morning. It is good to be together to celebrate the life of our Sister Linda Quinones.

"Every human being is a person, unique [and] unrepeatable. Each of us has a gift to give that no one else can. The first step to finding love and happiness is to accept our own selves and the gifts God has given us. Then we can use them to help and love . . . [and] enrich the lives of others." This quote from Linda's autobiography is reflective of her journey as a member of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Linda Mae Quinones was born Feb. 28, 1941, in Kilauea, Kauai, Hawaii, to Frank, Jr., and Haruko (Oshima) Quinones. Her father was of Puerto Rican descent. He worked on a sugar plantation and as a truck driver delivering groceries. Her mother was of Japanese descent and worked part-time outside the home. Linda wrote, "My mother had great faith even though she was a non-Catholic and she taught us all we know about the faith and made sure we went to Mass every weekend. She became a Catholic in the late 1950s after her children had left home."

Linda joined siblings, Frank, Irene and James, and was followed by Doris, Mitchell and Beverly. Both the immediate and the extended families were very close knit. They would spend holidays with grandparents on both sides. It was a great opportunity for all the cousins to play together. Linda and her siblings even shared their duties, which for Linda was gathering the eggs from the chickens and ducks.

Linda attended Kilauea ES and Kappa HS. She enjoyed playing sports mostly because she liked being around people. During her seventh and eighth grade years she worked after school for a teacher and her husband at their grocery store. She started working in a pineapple factory when she was in high school. She wore long, thick gloves to prevent being cut by the large, sharp knives. The long, exhausting hours taught her the value of hard work, secured money for her continued education, and provided the incentive to do so. After high school, Linda enrolled at Honolulu Business College and worked part-time at a neighborhood business. She also helped the neighbors, especially senior citizens, as needed. She shared, "I loved doing things for people."

Linda was a member of St. Sylvester Church, a mission church from St. Catherine parish located on a small sugar plantation thirty miles away. The variety of cultures that populated the plantation formed a tight knit community through regular weekend gatherings to play sports with games for children and adults alike. Linda served as treasurer, vice prefect, and prefect for her Sodality. She noted, "[As] a Sodalist, I was in contact with the Sisters of Charity. Watching them at work and seeing the joy they got out of doing, it made me stop and think."

Swapping the beautiful, warm weather and fresh fruits of Hawaii for the weather extremes of Iowa and hot dogs on Sunday, Linda entered the BVM congregation on July 31, 1960. It was the largest set ever to enter the Sisters of Charity. Linda received the name Frances Joan at her reception on Feb. 2, 1961. She professed her first vows on Feb. 2, 1963, one of only ten Hawaiian born women to ever do so. She lived 64 years as a BVM.

After profession, Linda served as a housekeeper and sacristan at Our Lady of the Angels in Clinton, Iowa, and then as housekeeper and driver at Guadalupe College in Los Gatos, Calif. In 1969, she moved to Seattle where

she worked as school resource person and secretary to the dean at Bishop Blanchet High School and did a variety of tasks at St. John ES. She later served as school secretary at Most Holy Redeemer and St. Thomas More, both in San Francisco.

In 1970, the BVMs adopted Totally Open Personal Application (TOPA), allowing sisters to apply for any ministry position to which they felt called and in which they could best use their talents. This was a blessing and a game changer for Linda who commented, "I have done many things but my most important interest was in the business world." She worked as office manager and bookkeeper for several businesses in the San Francisco area, including a construction company and a printing company, for a total of 24 years. She even oversaw reorganizing the printing business into a profit-sharing company. "I've enjoyed the business world. . . Business was my great passion."

Linda returned to Hawaii in 2004 to care for her mother. "I needed to [follow] the Japanese custom," she wrote. "The girls are supposed to take care of the mother when she is ill. . . I'm most grateful to the BVM community for giving me the opportunity and their support during [those] years." While her mother felt well enough, Linda would take her for walks on the beach to collect seashells and listen to the waves of the ocean come roaring in. It was a great joy for both. After her mother's death, Linda volunteered with hospice and greatly enjoyed teaching religious education at St. Catherine parish. She celebrated her Golden Jubilee with a ceremony in Honolulu in 2010. Illness brought her to Mount Carmel in 2014.

Linda faced her health challenges with grit, humor, and resilience. She worked hard to keep a positive attitude and lighthearted spirit as her inner strength was tested. Somehow, she was able to laugh and make light of the hard parts of her day. She was truly grateful for all the good thoughts, prayers, and great karma that helped her to be strong as each day unfolded.

Linda was a quiet, gentle, caring, and private person and a devote traditional Catholic. She deeply loved her family and friends and was grateful to all who helped her, especially the wonderful staff. She enjoyed participating in activities in Vista such as bingo and listening to music but would be the first to admit that singing was not one of her gifts. Her spirit was amazing, her sense of humor was special, and her gratitude to her BVM sisters was most evident. She enriched our lives with her smile and her laugh.

At the time of her Golden Jubilee, Linda wrote, "God has blessed me at every step of the way on the journey that is my life. The gift of caring for others was mine at an early age and, as a call to religious life slowly took hold, it [became] a source of joy. The constant and continuous love of God keeps coming my way through people, places and events. Many times, God's gifts come as a surprise. . . The joyous love of God comes over my life. I am grateful."

"Those who trust in God will understand the truth, those who are faithful will abide among the saints in love, for grace and mercy await those God has chosen." (Wisdom 3:9). Linda's faith and trust in God were strong, and she used her gifts in a life of committed service. She was ready to be welcomed into her eternal home among the saints by the God whom she loved so deeply. Rest in peace and love, Linda.