

Sister Dianna Ortiz, Human Rights Advocate

Ursuline Sister Dianna Ortiz was teaching indigenous children as a missionary in Guatemala in 1989 when her ministry was torn apart in the midst of the country's brutal civil war.

Guatemalan soldiers abducted her from a garden Nov. 2, detaining her for 30 hours. She reported being gang raped and tortured repeatedly until she escaped.

Returning to the United States, she became a human rights advocate and peacemaker, starting an organization for torture survivors and becoming a visible presence of nonviolence at vigils and marches in the nation's capital.

Sister Dianna died while in hospice care in Washington, D.C., Feb. 19 after a return of cancer. She was 62.

The native of Grants, N.M., was an Ursuline Sister for 43 years.

Friends reported that she had tested positive for the coronavirus in the fall while in New Mexico. Although she had mild symptoms and was able to return to Washington, D.C., she continued to feel ill for weeks afterward. Medical tests Feb. 12 discovered inoperable cancer.

Funeral arrangements were pending Feb. 19.

Friends and colleagues recalled Sister Dianna, who for the last year was deputy director of Pax Christi USA, for having a gentle spirit that guided a steely determination to work for justice and peace for three decades.

She wrote an award-winning book, "The Blindfold's Eyes: My Journey From Torture to Truth," which recounted her harrowing experience in Guatemala and journey toward advocacy rooted in faith.

In 1990, she filed a case with the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, which determined after seven years that the Guatemalan government had violated the American Convention on Human Rights in regard to her abduction.

She later filed a lawsuit under the Torture Victim Protection Act of 1992 and was awarded a \$5 million judgment, which was never paid because the Guatemalan general named in the case claimed he had no money.

She joined Pax Christi USA as deputy director the first time from 2010 to 2012. She served with the Washington, D.C.-based Center of Concern on its Education for Justice Project, 2012-2018. —CNS

Father Joseph Girone, Former Pastor in the Bronx

Father Joseph F. Girone, O.S.A., who served at St. Nicholas of Tolentine parish in the Bronx for 24 years, died Feb. 13 in Atlanti-Care Regional Medical Center in Pomona, N.J. He was 66.

Father Girone served St. Nicholas of Tolentine as pastor, 2005-2016, and parochial vicar, 1981-1994. While in the Bronx, he also served his religious community as director of initial formation and vocation director for Hispanic vocations.

Father Girone was parochial vicar of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Staten Island, 1999-2001. He also served in New Jersey, Dela-

ware and Peru.

Born in Bryn Mawr, Pa., he entered the Augustinians in 1974. He professed final vows in 1980 and was ordained in 1981.

He earned a bachelor's degree in education from Villanova University in Pennsylvania and a master's in theology from Washington Theological Union, Washington, D.C.

His brothers, Paul and James, survive him.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 19 at St. Thomas of Villanova Church on the campus of Villanova University. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Conshohocken, Pa.

Sister Martha Gleason, Teacher

Sister Martha Gleason, O.S.U., who taught at The Ursuline School in New Rochelle for 15 years, died Feb. 1 at Andrus on Hudson in Hastings-on-Hudson. She was 84.

Sister Martha was at The Ursuline School, 1989-2004, where she introduced the peer ministry program and expanded the music department. She was provincial of the Ursuline Sisters' Northeast Province, 1982-1988; taught at the Academy of Mount St. Ursula, the

Bronx, 1964-1965.

She also served in Maine and Massachusetts.

Born in Boston, she entered the Ursuline Sisters in 1955 and professed final vows in 1962. She earned a bachelor's degree from the College of New Rochelle, and a master's from The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

Services are not planned at this time. Burial will be in St. Peter's Cemetery, Sandwich, Mass.

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I'm a cert CNA w/extensive nursing background care (terminally ill, Multiple Sclerosis, Alzheimer's), also hired & managed multiple staff, hospice, served as a nursing assistant in various hospitals & homes, 25 yrs exp, refs. 646-730-4661; Rosapenarieta@live.com

I'm a cert HHA, mature, reliable, compassionate & hardworking lady w/10+ yrs exp. on Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, diabetes, stroke care etc, sks FT job as Caregiver for the elderly, exclnt refs. 914-602-7318

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PRAYER NOTICES

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I may attain my goal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me, and that in all instances of my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you, even in spite of all material illusion. I wish to be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. Amen. H.F.M.

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PRAYER NOTICES

INVOCATION OF ST. BLAISE
St. Blaise, gracious benefactor of mankind and faithful servant of God, who for the love of our Savior did suffer so many tortures with patience and resignation; I invoke thy powerful intercession. Preserve me from all evils of soul and body. Because of thy great merits God endowed thee with the special grace to help those that suffer from ills of the throat; relieve and preserve me from them, so that I may always be able to fulfill my duties, and with the aid of God's grace perform good works. I invoke thy help as special physician of souls, that I may confess my sins sincerely in the holy sacrament of Penance and obtain their forgiveness. I recommend to thy merciful intercession also those who unfortunately concealed a sin in confession. Obtain for them the grace to accuse themselves sincerely and contritely of the sin they concealed, of the sacrilegious confessions and communions they made, and of all the sins they committed since then, so that they may receive pardon, the grace of God, and the remission of the eternal punishment. Amen.

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PRAYER NOTICES

NOVENA TO ST. ROCH
O blessed Saint Roch, patron of the sick, have pity on those who lie upon a bed of suffering. Your power was so great when you were in this world, that by the sign of the Cross, many were healed of their diseases. Now that you are in Heaven, your power is no less. Offer to God our sighs and tears, and obtain for us the physical and spiritual health we seek. This we ask through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen. St. Roch, pray for us, that we may be relieved from all diseases of body and soul. Lord Jesus, may Thy will be done. Saint Roch, pray for us! (3 times). Recite one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be.

PRAYER NOTICES

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

Most beautiful Flower of Mount Carmel, Fruitful Vine, Splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my mother. Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to assist me in this necessity; there are none that can withstand your power. Show me herein you are my Mother, conceived without sin, and pray for us who have recourse to thee. Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands. Amen. WALLY