

Sisters of the Holy Family

Sister Paulina Villa

June 30, 1933 – January 14, 2024

Sister Paulina Villa died peacefully on January 14, 2024, at the age of 90. She was born in Santa Margarita, California, on June 30, 1933, to Amelia Garcia and Lazaro Villa, and entered the Sisters of the Holy Family from Holy Angels Parish there on July 2, 1952 at the age of 19. She had had no previous contact with the Sisters of the Holy Family, she said; “I just filled out the paperwork and had my family drive me to the convent so I could enter. I walked up the steps of Hayes and Fillmore and never left.”




Sister Paulina’s early years among the sisters were spent in the field of religious education in the Bay Area, Monterey County, Mount Shasta, Reno and Pleasant Hill. She moved on then to working in parishes with the divorced and separated, hospice and grief groups and retreat ministry. In 1990 she began work with Seton Medical Center’s West Bay Home Health Services, where she pioneered the role of home health care chaplain, often visiting with people she had first met during a hospital visit. She was known for her gentle ways with people, and for listening and responding to needs. She retired from compensated ministry in 2008 and continued in volunteer chaplaincy until she suffered a serious stroke in early 2009. Following the stroke, she moved to the Motherhouse in Fremont where she remained until her death.

Sister Paulina’s focus of work was with adults, and she loved her interactions with them. She also loved camping and spent many vacations in tents in the forests of California. She remained close to her family, and enjoyed spending time with them in rural California when she was still able to travel. When she could no longer travel, she enjoyed their visits and games of Farkle and home-cooked food.

Sister Paulina’s funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday, January 26, at 2:00 pm in the Sisters’ Oratory. Burial will take place in the family plot in Santa Margarita Cemetery at a later date.

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“ . . . to
seek out
and
advocate
for the
poor and
needy,
especially
families,

for the
kingdom
of God. . . ”