



**We remember
Sister Mary Lila Espinosa, RSM
1935-2008**

~ a Sister of Mercy for 55 years!

*Presented by Sister Monica Marie Reichmuth, RSM
St. Laurence O'Toole Catholic Church,
Laramie, Wyoming, Sept. 24, 2008*

Sister Mary Lila was born on April 12, 1935, to Frank S. and Leonor (Lopez) Espinosa in the picturesque town of Cimarron, N.M., into a family of five boys and three girls. Five years later, her family moved to the wilds of Wyoming where her father had secured a job on a cattle ranch. Lila is survived by her sisters: Mary of Casper and Emelina of Denver. She has one living brother, Sabino, who lives in El Paso, Texas. She recently lost her brother, Henry, who lived in Colorado.

Lila first attended high school at Laramie (Wyo.) Jr. High and then finished at Mercy Prep High School (Mount Loretto) in Council Bluffs, Iowa. She entered the Sisters of Mercy on Sept. 8, 1953. Lila was received into the order on March 12, 1954; temporarily professed on Aug. 16, 1956; and finally professed on Aug. 16, 1959, in Omaha, Nebr.

Lila received a bachelor of science degree in elementary education from College of Saint Mary in Omaha in 1961. Her ministry was teaching in elementary classrooms in Nebraska, Missouri and North Dakota. Her most recent teaching service was in Devils Lake, N.D., where she lived for almost 25 years. Lila retired to Mercy Villa in Omaha in 2003 and has lived there until recently when she returned to Laramie to live near her family.

Lila loved her family very much and made the decision that she wanted to live her remaining days in Laramie. In her ministry of teaching, which she carried on both in and out of the classroom, Lila loved children and had her own special way of leading them ever closer to God. Her grandniece told her mother

that Sister Lila taught her to always put a cross on the top of each sheet of paper. That represented Jesus who was present with her as she wrote. Lila was a great defender of the faith. She had a special love for Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict and all the Church teaches through them. She was a great example to everyone in many ways.

Lila died on the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. I think Lila experienced many sorrows in her own life, especially during her later years when she had to deal with tumors and ill health. In spite of all this, she never let anything keep her down. She amazed all of us with how much energy she had and with how much she could do with only one arm.

She was buried on the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy and is now united with her God, her parents and siblings, Catherine McAuley, and all Sisters of Mercy who have gone before her to their eternal reward. She is now totally at peace with herself and enjoying eternal life with God.

Condolences may be sent to: Theresa Frausto, 666 North 10th Street, Laramie, WY 82072

We shall all
meet in heaven,
Oh, what a joy
to think of it!

--Catherine McAuley