

11/16/95

Name..... ORJUELA, ROSA MARIA
Birth February 6, 1919-Manta, Colombia
Parents Tomas Orjuela & Maria del Carmen Cardenas
Nationality Col/American 5/8/1986
Next of Kin Maria de la Cruz Orjuela (sister) Lois Orjuela (sister-in-law)
 K 3A Este #30 C 39 Sur 17710 N.W. 33 Court
 Bogota, Colombia Opalocka, FL 33054
Baptism February 23, 1919
Confirmation
Entrance July 18, 1939-Magdalena, Bogota, Colombia
Prise d'Habit March 15, 1940- " " "
First Vows..... August 29, 1942-Manizales, Colombia
Profession..... March 19, 1948-Manizales, Colombia
Studies Teacher's Diploma 1973 Florida
 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine-Archdiocese of Miami
 Hispanic Workshops for the State of Florida (yearly)
 for the Dioceses of Miami and Venice
Death November 16, 1995-LaBelle, Florida (76 yrs. 9 mos.)
 Killed in auto accident with Sr. Mercedes Posada
 woman and child-survivors - sent to hospital.
 BURIAL: Ft. Denaud Cemetery LaBelle, Florida

YEAR	PLACE	EMPLOYMENT	SUPERIOR
1939-1942	La Magdalena Bogota, Col.	Household Maintenance; Cook etc.	
1942-1952	Campo Hermoso Manzales, Col.	" " "	
1952-1955	Cerro Havana, Cuba	" "	
1955-1961	Marianao, Havana, Cuba	" "	
9/1961-10/'73	Carrollton Miami, FL	Cook Household Maintenance	
10/73-6/1979	Naranja & Homestead Fl. Fr. Lopez	Pastoral Ministry - Work with migrants	
1979-1988	Diocese, Miami & Diocese Venice	Pastoral Ministry - Work with migrants Spanish CCD Immigration and Naturalizations Services Eucharistic Minister	
1988-1995	"	Pastoral Ministry/Migrants	

1. Nom: Orjuela Prénom: Rosa Maria
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- | | Date | ' | Lieu |
|-----------------|------------------|---|---------------------|
| 2. Naissance: | February 6, 1919 | , | Manta, Colombia |
| 3. Prem. Voeux: | August 29, 1942 | , | Manizales, Colombia |
| 4. Profession: | March 19, 1948 | , | Manizales, Colombia |
-
5. Nom du Père: Tomas Orjuela
6. Nom de la Mère: Maria del Carmen Cardenas
7. Domicile des parents (s'ils sont en vie: pays, ville):
Manta, Colombia (mother)
-
8. Nationalité: Colombian
9. Langue maternelle: Spanish
10. Autres langues qu'on peut lire et parler: English (a little)
11. Etudes - primaires, secondaires, universitaires (souligner ce qui convient.)
- (Si l'on a fait des études primaires seulement, souligner "primaires"; si l'on a fait des études primaires et secondaires, souligner "secondaires"; si l'on a fait des études universitaires, souligner "universitaires" et indiquer aussi l'université et le groupe de sujets étudié' exemple: Cambridge - Sciences; Oxford - Lettres; Louvain - Théologie).
12. Profession exercée avant l'entrée en religion, s'il y a lieu:
13. Formation d'enseignante (non universitaire):
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14. Emplois exercés le plus souvent: Vestry, depense, refectorian, cook
common works, portress, sacristan
15. Aptitudes particulières: Sewing, knitting, crotcheting, depense
cooking
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(N.B. pour les rubriques No. 14 et 15. - Lorsqu'il s'agira de la feuille remplie aux Premiers Voeux, ces deux rubriques pourront être remplies, ou non, selon les cas.)

SISTER ROSA MARIA ORJUELA

Sister Rosa was born in Manta, Colombia in 1919. She entered the Society of the Sacred Heart in Bogota Colombia in 1940 where she made her First Vows August 29, 1942. From 1942-1952 at Manizales she was aid to the Dietitian, cook, refectorian, sacristan, charged with the linen room, laundry at different times during those years and where she made her Final Profession in 1948.

From 1952-1955 she served in the school at Havan, Cuba as dietitian and charged with the work of the maids. From 1955-1961 she was Aid to the Portress and Infir-
marian at Marianao, Cuba; during the Revolution the Sisters were held under house arrest by the Castro Militia, until all the Religious were removed in January of '61. Rosa had a brief stay in Puerto Rico at Santurce until Reverend Mother Barry took six to houses in the United States. So it was that Rosa began her work in Miami Florida in the newly opened Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart as cook and aid to the dietitian. Right after Vatican Council II Rosa began teaching catechism in the Naranja-Homestead area, gaining her Certificate of Religious Education from the Archdiocese of Miami, as well as Teachers Diploma from the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. By 1972 she was working full time with the migrants for the Archdiocese.

In 1979 Father Frank Guinan invited Sister Rosa and Sister Bienvenida Velez to to continue this mission at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish in LaBelle. Here Rosa became Director of Hispanic Religious Education, serving as Pastoral Minister to the Hispanic Community, but a "good will minister" to the entire Community of LaBelle. This entailed home/hospital visitation, serving transportation to migrants. As Dispenser of the Charities Fund for all undocumented and marginalized workers, she maintained a clothing center and food pantry for all in LaBelle. Anyone who witnessed her day by day existence saw her boundless energy and capacity to enjoy life, saw her "meeting the needs of the present moment with compassion." She relished her recyclage in Spain in 1981, her lucky choice for free trip to Rome for Saint Philippine's canonization, her month in Mexico, and her regular trips back to Colombia to visit her family. When asked what books supported her prayer life and ministry she unhesitatingly answered: 'the Bible! And what helped most in her growth as woman of the Church she declared : 'the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.' Her deepest devotion? Our Lady of Chiquinquirá and Our Lady Of Guadalupe. What fervor to open the Church for Las Mananitas, and join the migrants in an hour of singing before leaving for the orange groves . This year they had no desire to dance for Guadalupe - their heart just wasn't in it.

Everyone loved this Madrecita who lived only to serve others - even the inmates at the County Jail experienced her dynamism and exuberance after only three months. Of herself she said: "People recognized me everywhere because I stayed in the habit. I knew that the Holy Spirit was using me and my work...I have offered my life to Jesus through the Heart of His Mother Mary, asking her to transform it for the good of my apostolate, and so others may respond to God. May the glory all be His in whatever He wants me to do."

This was a woman of good solid judgment and insight, of strong common sense, who benefited by all her experiences; aiding her to carry on a special bank for assisting the migrants under stress and wisely loaning to trusted parishioners who repaid in time as they were able; to act as spiritual counselor to anyone she met, be it the classroom, the super-market, the highway. To try to capture the spirit of such a generous-hearted person is difficult in a short space, for everyone received her sympathy in time of sorrow, and elation in time of joy. So fruitful a life was dramatically cut short on November 16, 1995 when death struck instantaneously in a car accident with Sister Posada - an irony of fate that the Van driver was a Mexican, turning into the Mexican Store, unaware of Rosa's presence.

The shock to the whole town precipitated an outpouring of grief, and concern for the two community members left - the prolonged viewing at the Parish Church, the steady flow of mourners, the shouldering of the coffins by her devoted friends, the presence of Bishop John Nevins of the Venice Diocese with thirty-three priests, the eloquent words of our Pastor and former pastors bore eloquent testimony to the regard in which both sisters were held. At Fort Denaud Cemetery everyone remained until the final floral arrangements were placed. Most fitting are the permanent granite ledgers to be placed over each coffin by our funeral director and lawyer with an explanation of the Society's work and biographical sketches "for the future education of all migrants and 'heathen baptists' who never knew our beloved sisters. And so Rosa's apostolate in LaBelle will be passed on to their children's children for many years to come. How sorely she will be missed!

Two nuns killed in car crash

By MIRIAM PEREIRA
News-Press staff writer

Sisters Maria de las Mercedes Posada and Rosa Maria Orjuela died doing their life's work — helping LaBelle's neediest citizens.

The two were killed Thursday morning as they drove back to LaBelle after taking a woman and her baby to a job interview.

The impact of their sudden deaths was seen and felt in the small Ford Avenue convent where Orjuela and Posada lived and worked, helping the poor, the sick and the hungry.

Parishioners, neighbors and fellow sisters from Miami streamed into the small house Thursday night, some bearing food but all paying their respects.



ORJUELA:
Killed in car accident.



POSADA:
Died caring for needy.

"It's because of them that I'm in the church," Pedro Gomez said as he stood by the front door of the house with other mourners.

Gomez found out about the accident Thursday afternoon and came to the house after work. "They showed me the path. Before, I didn't know much about God," he said.

"The two of them were mercy givers," said Sister Madeleine Desloge, who with Sister Bienvenida Velez lived with Posada and Orjuela at the convent.

NUNS: Helped Hispanic community

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With the deaths of Posada and Orjuela, Desloge and Velez are the only two members of the Religious of the Sacred Heart order in LaBelle. The order has about 550 members in the United States and about 4,000 worldwide. Sisters with the order help migrants and perform pastoral ministry work.

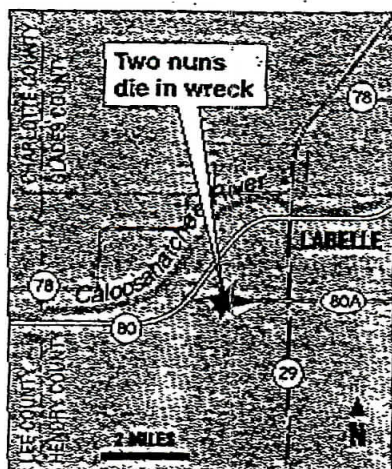
Orjuela, 76, and Posada, 72, worked in their native Colombia and in Puerto Rico, Cuba and Miami, among other places, Desloge said. Orjuela joined the order in LaBelle in 1979 and Posada came along in 1981.

They were kicked out of Cuba in 1960 after the communists came to power, she said.

The sisters worked with the area's growing Hispanic community and other needy parishioners at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church in LaBelle.

Orjuela, known among migrants and friends as "Madrecita," Spanish for "little mother," also prayed the rosary with inmates at the Hendry County Jail. Posada, who was called Sister Mercy, collected food and clothing and visited needy parishioners at home.

"They were just utterly committed to the people of the parish and of LaBelle. ... They were women of great, great love," Sister Ellen Collesano of Miami said.



SAMMIE CHAN / News-Press

For Orjuela and Posada, Thursday morning began as it had every day for the order. They ate breakfast with Velez and Desloge and attended an 8 a.m. communion service at the Our Lady.

At about 8:30 a.m., Posada and Orjuela got into a white Pontiac and drove 29-year-old Paula Leyva and her 6-month-old daughter, Jessica, to Alva, where Leyva had a job interview, Desloge said.

An hour later, Orjuela was driving back, heading east on County Road 80A. Posada sat in the front passenger seat and Leyva was in the

back seat with Jessica strapped in her safety seat.

As the car drove by LaBelle Supermarket, Simon Mendez drove into the Pontiac's path as he tried to turn from the westbound lane of 80A and into the store's parking lot, the Florida Highway Patrol said.

Orjuela's Pontiac was mangled in the impact, which killed both sisters instantly. Leyva was taken to Lee Memorial Hospital, where she was in serious condition Thursday night.

Leyva's daughter slipped out of the safety seat and onto the floor, friends said. She was taken to All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, where she was in intensive care late Thursday.

Mendez, 23, of LaBelle, will be charged with making an improper turn, Trooper Alan High said.

"This is a big loss for us. ... They were my friends. I adored them," said Hilda Fogelson, her face red from crying.

Fogelson and her husband, Rod, met the sisters at a Mass one year ago, and their friendship blossomed. Posada and Orjuela would drop by the couple's home, and when Hilda Fogelson would pay the sisters a visit, they would give her mangos and other fruit.

In August, Rod Fogelson had heart surgery.

"They prayed for me and I made it back," he said.