



Maria Elena Ochoa

July 2, 1923 - July 15, 2016

Elena passed away peacefully on July 15, 2016 surrounded by family members. She was 93 years old. Elena was born in Jalisco, Mexico the oldest of 16 children of which 10 survived. Elena arrived in Union City in 1961 and lived with her sister and brother in law, Esperanza and Salomon Estrella. She is preceded in death by her sisters, Esperanza Estrella (Union City), Jesus Ochoa (Mexico) and her brothers, Pedro and Alfonso Ochoa (Mexico). She is survived by Antonio Ochoa (Merced), Raul Ochoa (Union City), Salvador Ochoa, Maria Ochoa, and Teresa Ochoa all in Mexico and many loving nieces and nephews.

Elena never married but considered all her nieces and nephews her children especially Maria del Socorro Estrella –Duran, Martha Estrella and Jose Estrella whom she helped care for.

Elena will be remembered among other things, as Esperanza's sister sitting on the porch and smoking, eating her chocolate candy bar or her "pan dulce," walking up and down 7th Street to the corner market (Cardenas) running errands.

A Memorial Vigil will be held on Tuesday, July 26th, 7pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, 703 C Street, Union City, CA 94587. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, July 27th, 10am at the church.

Inurnment will follow at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Hayward, CA.

Tribute Wall

DO

“ Dorothy lit a candle in memory of Maria Elena Ochoa



Dorothy - July 27, 2016 at 09:45 PM

“*Maria Elena Ochoa nacio el 2 de Julio 1923, en un pueblo chico de Jalisco, Mexico. Fue la mayor de 16 hijos de los cuales 10 sobrevivieron. Como la mayor, ayudo a cuidar de sus hermanos y hermanas. Ademas de ayudar con sus hermanos, tambien ayudo con los gastos de la casa lavando ropa ajena. Su papa era vendedor en el pueblo donde vendia desde reposteria a "duros" y ella le ayudaba a preparar para que su papa saliera a vender en la plaza. A medida de que sus hermanos y hermanas en Mexico tenian hijos, Elena ayudaba a cuidar de ellos. Esperanza y Salomon se trajeron a Elena a los Estados Unidos en 1961. Para este tiempo, Esperanza y Salomon tenian 2 hijas (Socorro y Martha). Socorro pronto empezaria el Kinder y Esperanza queria una persona de confianza para cuidar de sus hijas mientras trabajaba y que mejor persona que su hermana, Elena.*

Una vez en Estados Unidos, llegaron a Union City. Elena llevaba a Socorro al Kinder y se quedaba todo el dia frente al salon para cuidar y asegurarse que todo estuviera bien. Llego a tal punto que la administracion de la escuela le llamo la atencion a Esperanza para decirle que Elena no podia permanecer en los terrenos de la escuela una vez que Socorro pasara al salon. En 1964 nacio, Jose, el menor de los hijos de Esperanza y Salomon. No cabe duda que Jose tambien era su bebe y lo sobreprotegia.

Elena nunca se caso pero varias veces le pidieron la mano en matrimonio. Primero decia que "Si" para luego decir, "Yo no me voy a casar con el." Nunca tuvo hijos, pero siempre considero a sus sobrinos y sobrinas como a sus hijos, pero en especial a Socorro, Martha y a Jose ya que ella ayudo a cuidar de ellos.

Al pasar del tiempo, la comunidad empezo a conocerla, pues ella caminaba a todas partes todo el dia haciendo "mandados" para los demas. A ella le encantaba caminar y hacer mandados pues le daba la oportunidad de platicar con los vecinos al igual que con la Comunidad de Fe de NSR.

Cuando la Orden Franciscana estaba aqui en NSR, el Padre Elias Galvez hablo con Elena y le pidio que si queria hacerse cargo de una "segunda" como parte de un ministerio de NSR. Lo recaudado de las ventas se donaba a NSR. Le encanto la idea ya que esto le daria la oportunidad de seguir conviviendo con la comunidad, conocer a nuevas personas y al mismo tiempo ayudaba a su parroquia.

Cuando Esperanza, la hermana de Elena se enfermo, siempre estuvo al tanto de ella sin dejar de estar cerca. Para estas fechas Elena ya manifestaba sintomas de su "demencia".

Elena sera recordada entre otras cosas, como la hermana de Esperanza sentada en el "porche" y fumando, comiendose su dulce de chocolate o "pan dulce", y caminando para arriba y para abajo por la calle 7 a la tienda de Cardenas haciendo encargos.

Ella ya esta en presencia del Senor junto con sus seres queridos se adelantaron en el camino, regocijando.

“*Maria Elena Ochoa was born on July 2, 1923 in a small town in Jalisco, Mexico. She was the oldest of 16 children of which 10 survived. As the oldest child she helped taking care of her younger siblings. In addition to helping with her siblings and in order to contribute to the family income she would wash clothes for others in the community. Her father was a merchant who sold various food items that ranged from home cooked pastries and "duros" (flour based chips that we see today). She helped him prepare these good so he could go and sell them in the town square. Esperanza and Salomon brought Elena to the United States in 1961. By this time Esperanza and Salomon had two children (Socorro and Martha). Socorro would soon enter Kindergarten and Esperanza wanted a trustworthy person to care for her children while she and Salomon worked and what better person than her sister, Elena.*

Once in the United States they settled in Union City. Elena would take Socorro to Kindergarten and would stay looking into the classroom keeping an eye on Socorro so nothing would happen to her. It came to the point that the school administration called Esperanza to tell her that Elena could not stay on school grounds once she dropped off Socorro in class. In 1964, Jose, the youngest child of Esperanza and Salomon was born. Needless to say this was her "baby" as well and was very protective of him.

Elena never married but several times her hand was asked in marriage. She would first say "Yes" to the gentleman to only later say, "I am not going to marry him." She had no children but considered all her nieces and nephews her children especially Socorro, Martha, and Jose since she helped in their care.

As the years went by the community began to know her, she would walk to everywhere all day running errands for others and she loved it because this gave her a chance to socialize with the neighbors as well as with the OLR Faith Community.

When the Franciscan order was here at OLR, Fr. Elias Galvez

approached Elena and asked her if she would like to be in charge of a little second hand store which would be a part of a ministry of OLR. Proceeds from the sales were donated to OLR. She loved the idea since this would give her the opportunity to continue socializing with the community, meeting new people and also help her parish.

When Elena's sister, Esperanza became ill, she was very protective of her never leaving her side. By this time Elena was already manifesting symptoms of Dementia.

Elena will be remembered among other things, as Esperanza's sister sitting on the front porch and smoking, eating her chocolate candy bar or "pan dulce", and walking up and down 7th Street to the corner market (Cardenas) running errands.

She is now rejoicing in the presence of our Lord along with her loved ones gone before her.

mstrelladuran - July 26, 2016 at 04:56 PM



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Fremont Chapel of the Roses - July 22, 2016 at 12:53 PM