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In loving memory of

Maria Christina Vienna

February 9, 1925 - September 14, 2012

Saturday, September 20, 2014

8:30am - Rosary

9:00am - Funeral Mass

Holy Cross Mortuary Chapel

10:00am - Gravesite Service

Holy Cross Cemetery
5835 West Slauson Avenue, Culver City, CA 90230

Father Padraic Loftus, Celebrant

Funeral Mass

Introductory Rites

Placing of the Pall

Placing of the Christian Symbol(s)

Opening Hymn: "Lord Of All Hopefulness" Mark Newberry

Liturgy of The Word

First Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.....Mary Keenan

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 15 Mark Newberry

Response: "You are my inheritance, O Lord."

Second Reading: Romans 8:14-23.....Stan Mullin

Gospel and HomilyFather Padraic Loftus

General IntercessionsJim Silva

Response: "Lord, hear our prayer"All

Liturgy of The Eucharist

Presentation of the Gifts

Hymn at the Presentation of the Gifts:

"In The Breaking of The Bread" Mark Newberry

Hymn at Communion:

"Jesus Come To Us" Mark Newberry

Final Commendation

Prayer of Farewell.....Father Padraic Loftus

Closing Hymn: "Saints of God" Mark Newberry

InternmentCemetery

A Woman of Devotion and Kindness

Maria, or “Rita” as we all affectionately refer to her, was born in the family’s home at Nieuwe Tielse Weg 86, Tiel, Holland. Yes, the family had doctor De Haan, but it was two nuns that acted as mid-wives that brought Rita into this world.

From age 3 – 13, Rita attended Saint Cathrina School, which was the only Catholic girl’s school in Tiel. (Saint Thomas was the boy’s school in town). When Rita was 4, the family moved to a larger home at Ooystraat 19, Tiel that, unfortunately for the 12 kids, was much further from school. The old house was a 5 minute walk to school, the new home was a 30 minute walk, which when you have noon-2pm to get home and back for your mid-day meal, really cuts into supper time! (In those days, school started at 9am and ended at 4pm) The “journey” to and from school was often fraught with a bit of danger because the red-headed Protestants would often pick on them, even throw snowballs through the open windows of their home. Rita enjoyed telling the story of one instance when she tired of the teasing, so she grabbed the handle bar of one of the “Boudewyn’s” bikes and threw the **guy** to the ground! ☺

Both family homes were modest. The kids always shared a bed and bedroom (i.e. Sanny, Mientje (Wilhelmina) and Trees (Theresia) shared a bed and Nolly (Arnolda and “Riet” (Maria) shared another. They grew most of their fruit and vegetables in their back yard and ate meat sparingly (because of the cost). Christmas gifts were ‘for the family’, not a particular family member.

Just before the war began in 1940, when Riet was 14, she got a job working in Tiel from 9am-3pm as a house cleaner for the de Blank family. Her pay? 3 guilders / week ☺. (having a job then was crucial, because if not, once the Germans occupied, they would have sent Riet to a work camp) Rita’s parents called her “Riet” and they added an “a” when she was 18.

In 1944, Rita moved to Amsterdam for 6 months and lived with Jack and Suzy (who was pregnant with Arnie at the time). What was the primary reason for the move? To get her tonsils removed. The way they did it was barbaric. You opened your mouth and they cut them out – without any painkiller! It was a long recovery.

Jack and Suzy’s next-door neighbor (Ms. Van Hestor) told Rita she should try to get a house-cleaning job with the Ophemer Van der Wal family. She did, she got the job and she enjoyed it so much that she worked there for the next 9 years. It was a well-to-do family so Rita would be loaded with food when she came home for one day each weekend. Sadly, the Van der Wal kids were spoiled and Rita was fired after one of the daughters falsely accused Rita of hitting her.

After the War, at age 29, Rita got a job in den Haag working for the master lawyer for the Peace Palace (Bodehausen family). She enjoyed the family and she worked there for 6 years.

On April 20th, (Hitler’s birthday) 1960 Rita flew on KLM from Amsterdam to LAX at the request of her brother Kees who was living in Pasadena and wanted someone from Holland to come

over and keep him company (her brother Jack already settled in L.A.) Soon after she arrived in L.A., she answered an ad in the L.A. Times for a family in Brentwood that were looking for a housekeeper. From '60-'67 she did most everything around the Mullin home from cooking, taking little Stanley to and from school, making curtains, cooking, cleaning, upholstering their furniture and sharing dinners with Stanley in the kitchen.

Two years after moving to the U.S., Rita made a return visit to her family in Holland. For her two closest sisters (Nolly and Trees) it was like one BIG party! Nolly and Trees rented a car, picked Rita up at the airport (with all of her luggage and presents inside!) and she reconnected with the entire family. During that trip, Rita picked up a Volkswagen Beetle in Ausburg (Germany) and, along with her two brothers-in-law, brought it back to Holland and had it shipped to L.A. That visit to Holland was the first of many visits by the three sisters, over a 42-year period; either coming to L.A. or going to Tiel, (2000 was the last to Tiel). When the three weren't visiting each other, they were in daily contact.

In '66, Rita's 6-week visit to Tiel had an extra dimension. She brought a little boy with her named Stanley Mullin.

New Year's Eve in '67, Rita and Stanley were, as usual, over at Jack and Suzy's (and Mary Keenan's) home celebrating the New Year when Rita met the love of her life (Jack's obvious plan from the outset). Joe Vienna was a wonderful gentleman that lived in the home across the street.

Soon after that NYE, Rita left her job at the Mullin's and the couple was married at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church on Sunset Blvd., Stanley was their ring bearer and their reception was at the Mullin's home. So began a genuinely happy 43-year marriage. They worshipped at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, made intermittent visits back home in Tiel and each year vacationed in Northern California where they fished at Virginia Lake and camped at Bridgeport.

Rita and Joe had a standing invitation for family in Holland to visit and they did! Frequently family members from the Netherlands would visit for periods as short as a week to as long as 6 months. Rita's sister Trees, four years her junior, has stayed with the Vienna's for most winters during the last 20 years and Nolly frequently, as well. Even though Butler Avenue will not be available for visits from the extended Verheggen / Maasbach family, the Kanashiga, Keenan and Mullin homes in Albuquerque (NM), Rancho Santa Fe (CA) and Irvine (CA) respectively, would love to have our Dutch family members come and stay, anytime ☺

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A website has been set up for Rita's family and friends to post their favorite memories of time with her and / or post pictures at...

www.RitaViennaTribute.com

Please build the site to be one that is "filled to the brim" with stories and images that remind us of her love for our dear Lord, for her family and friends, devotion to the Church and her wonderful humor.