

Remembering Sister Maureen Courtney

Born on May 12, 1944, Sister Maureen Courtney entered St. Agnes Convent in September 1962 and was professed as a Sister of St. Agnes on August 15, 1965. Having been a teacher in the primary grades in several schools in New York and Wisconsin, she began her service as a missionary in Nicaragua early in 1978. Except for a few brief returns to the U.S., Sister Maureen worked among the Nicaraguan people until she was killed when her vehicle was ambushed on January 1, 1990.



Sister Maureen Courtney wrote to Sister Mary Ann Czaja in 1983:

“Well, life around here gets a bit more tense daily. You get used to living the present moment, because it’s the only one you’re really sure of. Just between us, I guess you could say that one day we may have to give our lives that others may live. I guess that’s really what our commitment is all about. I think the only thing that worries me is that I won’t be willing to give it generously. But that’s a grace I pray for daily.



My work with the sewing groups is going well. Being able to help people get a handle on the future and feeling good about themselves is all part of evangelization. I’m so convinced that our actions on a day to day basis are the only thing that can really bring about conversion in the lives of those we serve.”



Sister Teresa de Jesús Rosales, a young Nicaraguan Sister of St. Agnes born on May 28, 1965, was also killed on January 1, 1990 in the same ambush.