

Sister Inés Lezama, CSA

THANK YOU, SR. INÉS, FOR YOUR LIFE IN CSA.

Lilliam Inés Lezama Mendoza was born on November 13, 1941, in Nagarote, city of León, Nicaragua, baptized on May 30, 1942, in her home town. She received her first Communion on December 8, 1949.

Her parents are Julio Antonio Mendoza Arteaga and Adela Lezama Sandoval; her sisters Telma and Margarita, as well as various nieces and nephews.

She attended elementary school at the Republic School of Costa Rica-Nicaragua and high school at the Institute of Alajuela in Alajuela Costa Rica, C.A. She studied some additional courses in Pastoral, Liturgy, Basic Christian Communities, and an Intensive English Course at Mobile University (San Marcos), Nicaragua. She also obtained licenses in teaching and typing.

She entered CSA as a candidate on April 6, 1965, but professed vows in the Missionaries of Charity Congregation in Matagalpa, of Spanish foundation, on March 18, 1968. And, on January 21, 1993, she professed vows in CSA.

As a Sister of Charity, she was in ministries in Costa Rica and Panama. Then she was principal of a school of the same congregation in Matagalpa.

In 1988 she transferred into the Congregation of Saint Agnes and was teaching at the Child Jesus School in Puerto Cabezas and working in the San Pedro Parish during 1989-1990.

In 1990 she was sent to Rosita to take the position as Director of Santa Rosa School of Lima. She promoted many activities such as forming an excellent marching band and bringing together some young people in order to teach them to play the guitar.

In the 1990s, Sister Inés mobilized everything necessary for submitting to the government documents requesting to construct a school with new buildings. The original wood buildings from 1967 had many termites. The teachers and students had to go to different available places while the new building was constructed.

She obtained support so that one of the classrooms could serve as a computer lab. It was the first computer room in Rosita in 2000-2001.

In 2002, she received the keys to the city from City Hall for her outstanding educational and cultural work in Rosita.

In 2002, she was sent to La Ceiba, Honduras, to the San Isidro Parish. The sisters lived in the San Judas Colony where gangs existed. Sister Inés sought out the young people and encouraged them to form a soccer team. She looked for people and organizations that would be able to provide soccer balls and uniforms. Besides this, she was evangelizing them and giving them spiritual preparation. She worked with the San Isidro Primary School, giving English classes to preschoolers.

In 2011, she returned to Nicaragua and stayed in Managua, living at the Main House of Kilómeter 8.



She supported the preschool of the School of the Sisters of the Mother of the Divine Shepherd, teaching English and rhyming songs in English. In addition, she enlivened with her guitar the songs at Masses at Centro Santa Inés, the house for the elderly and retired sisters.

In 2016, she worked at the Vila Seca Parroquial School of Our Lady of Altagracia. She gave religious education classes and supported the administration of the school. As she used to say: "I need to work while I am able."

Inés was a slender person, with much energy. She was a woman of prayer, and she liked to be alone in the chapel with her guitar and singing praises to God, especially on Thursdays.

During her time living in Managua and in other places where it was possible, she went to daily Mass. She always made the effort, even though she had to get up early, to look for buses or taxis in order to arrive at the Church in another part of the city. When the sisters gathered, Sister Inés arrived with her jokes, her dances, her songs, and of course, with her guitar!

She loved to walk about with bags full of cookies and candies, giving them as gifts to anyone she saw, to a child, to an elderly person, to a young person; that was her way of giving love.

On Saturday, April 30, the Day of the Virgin, she was searching for a solution for her health problem through surgery; God was preparing her to encounter the true answer to her life: to meet her beloved, to meet the one to whom she dedicated hours of praise in the chapel.

Jesus called her on May 3, 2016, the day of the Holy Cross. What incredible signs. Everything happened so quickly, just as she was. She left in a hurry to meet Life.

While we were praying for her recovery, it is certain that she was praying for her meeting with Jesus (words of Sister Marise).

While she was in the hospital, Sr. Inés was surrounded by her Sisters of Saint Agnes throughout the day and night; from the waiting room she could have experienced companionship and love.

The day of her wake at Casa Santa Inés, she was visited by her family, friends, and religious sisters and brothers. So many people that loved her and valued her, and they cried. Her nephew Father P. Claudio celebrated the funeral Mass, anointing her coffin with oil of nard.

Her sister Telma Lezama, was grateful to the Sisters of Saint Agnes, for all the dedication, and commitment we had in our care for her sister Inés during the surgery and burial.

Our house of Kilómeter 8 feels empty, it is such a loss for us; we have mourned your parting from us, that parting which is also a grace, because you are in Heaven, the place that God has promised to you.

Thank you Sister Inés for the legacy that you left to us of: commitment to your religious vocation, your fidelity to CSA, your gift of life to the poorest and neediest, your life of happiness, music, dance, your missionary life, and above all, your life of prayer.

Her remains rest in the peace of Christ in the burial place of the Sisters of Saint Agnes, Managua, just as she had requested.

Sr. Inés: Today she sings in Heaven with her guitar: "BLESSED, BLESSED BE THE LORD."

(Written by Sisters Marise Meis and Zorelia. Chavarría. Translated by Maggie Sales.)