



Sister Marianita Zabala OSF

February 22, 1935 - January 5, 2026

Sister Marianita Zabala, OSF

Sister Marianita Zabala died on Monday, January 5, 2026 at Highand Hills Nursing Home in Pittsburgh. Born in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico in 1935, Sister Marianita entered the Sisters of St Francis of the Neumann Communities (Millvale) in 1954 from St Augustine Church in the Bronx, NY. She made final profession in 1958.

Sister was predeceased by her parents, Magdaleno Zabala and Anastasia Vazquez Zabala, and her siblings Peggy, Marcial and Carmen. She is survived by many loving nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and her religious community. She worked closely with the Capuchin Community(OFM Cap) in Puerto Rico over many years.

Sister Marianita received her Bachelors and Masters Degrees from Catholic University of Puerto Rico in Ponce, PR. Most of her religious life was in Puerto Rico, with a few years In Pittsburgh at St Joseph, Mt Oliver and North Catholic High School. Among her ministries, Sister was a high school Spanish teacher, guidance counselor and principal in San Antonio and Santa Cruz and a Formation Director for temporary professed Sisters in Cayey, PR

Sister Marianita returned to Mt Alvernia in Pittsburgh In 2017 after Hurricane Maria. Twenty years earlier, she and some students and adults went to help survivors of Hurricane Georges in the Dominican Republic. Reflecting on her

trip, she said they all thanked God for the beautiful experience of being so close to the poor. "We saw Jesus in every one of them"

She moved to The Province (Wexford) in 2019 with almost 70 Sisters of St Francis of the Neumann Communities.

Sister was in memory care, and has been a delightful presence there. She loved music, and sang, smiled and swayed to songs she loved, especially in Spanish. Sister recently went to Highland Hills Facility.

We are grateful to the staff from memory care at The Province, the staff at Highland Hills, and to Bethany Hospice, who cared for her lovingly at The Province and Highland Hills.

Fuiste u un ser de luz para nosotros en Puerto Rico y en Pittsburgh ¡te extrañaremos mucho, Hermana Marianita!

Viewing will be held on Friday, January 9 2026, at St. Aidan Parish, St. Alexis Church, 10090 Old Perry Highway, Wexford, at 10:30 am until the time of the Funeral Mass at 11:00 am. Interment at Mt. Alvernia Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities, 225 Greenfield Parkway, Suite 208, Liverpool, NY 13088. Live Streaming may be available, please check the parish website. Professional services trusted to D'ALESSANDRO FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY, LTD., Lawrenceville.

Cemetery Details

Mount Alvernia Cemetery

Pittsburgh, PA 15209

Previous Events

Viewing

JAN 9. 10:30 AM.

St. Aidan Parish

Tribute Wall

BB

“ So sorry to hear the passing of Sr. Marienita. I am a former employe of the Province. I used to clean Sr's. apt for her. Such a special lady!! She was loved so much. R.I.P. Sr. 💔😭🙏🙏



Bev Blystone - January 07 at 05:55 PM

DC

RIP 🙏🕯️🙏🌟

Diana Casellas - January 08 at 05:07 PM

JM

Wonderful human being, teacher, Nun, Devoted to God and her students and a beloved human being. I am blessed to have known her. May she Rest in Peace.

Julie Martinez MD - January 09 at 08:12 PM



I was her student at Colegio San Antonio High Class of 1974; she taught Christian Ethics and always managed to guide us beautifully through the road of self discovery of our faith and development of our individual relationship with God and with each other. Her joyful attitude and serene soul inspired me to seek inner peace and attempt to be a more committed catholic. Resquiescat in pace!

Ivelisse Barouhas - January 27 at 06:16 PM

MB

I have very fond memories of Sister Marianita. She was a wonderful person. Sister would travel up to Pittsburgh from PR during her summer recess from teaching and lend a helping hand in the Accounts Payable office for St. Francis Medical Center for several years. We shared many a good laugh together with her and Sister Ricarda. May she RIP.
Michael Bond

Michael Bond - March 05 at 04:10 PM

JR

We named her Pepita when we played together long time ago in her home near Colegio San Antonio many years ago. Bye Pepita, see you soon some day. I will never forget you.....

Julio G Rodriguez - June 26 at 05:02 PM