

March 23, 2022

Dear Associates and Sisters,

Bertha Alice Soontay Hogan, age 90, went to heaven surrounded by family on March 11, 2022. She was born at home in Boone, OK on February 10, 1932. She grew up by her family's orchard and often recalled the taste of peaches fresh off the trees. Her Indian name was Kiowa – "Sah Nee Mah" given by her mother. At the time of her passing she was the second oldest Apache tribal member.



After graduating from Nursing School in Lawton, OK, Bertha was sent to her first post in Montana. After working in Poplar, MT she transferred to Crow Agency where she met George Hogan III. They married on March 10, 1956 and had six children, 37 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. She and George loved to travel, attend pow-wows and many Tekawitha conferences, visit family members and make friends wherever they went throughout the United States.

In 1997 Bertha made her Associate commitment to pray with and for the community and remain in service to her parish. Three of her sisters-in-law are also Associates, Ardith Hogan, Letty Ann Hogan and Beverly Big Man. She was always happy to attend the meetings at Prayer Lodge and felt a true sense of belonging there. Bertha was a longtime Third Order Secular member and she was buried in the simple brown dress with a white collar and scapulars on her shoulders. What she wore on her journey to "the other camp," guided and protected her soul, a belief held by Native peoples.

Bertha retired from the Indian Health Service Crow Hospital after 30 years of dedicated service. She spent 20 years after retirement as a foster grandparent at the Crow Elementary School. Bertha held a special place in her heart for children. She was a member of St. Dennis Catholic Church where she was able to share her love of music as the organist/piano player for many years and also served as a Lay Minister.

Bertha's love of Christ and her Franciscan spirituality were contagious. Her life was a constant prayer, celebrating her relationship with Christ. This was also reflected in the scriptures chosen for her funeral mass on March 16th. "The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace." Psalm 29:11 and "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13.

In Loving Memory,

Carolyn Meyer