

October 20, 2017

Dear Sisters and Associates,

Stella Shirley entered into her Eternal Rest on September 1, 2017. Although seriously ill for over a year, Stella would rally back to better health, such was her stronghold on life. She carried a passion for living that would reflect in her work, her church ministries, her devotion as a mother and grandmother, and in her call as an Associate.



Stella was a registered nurse who shared her caregiver's heart with her people at the Tohatchi Health Center. Her nursing experience also became helpful as she raised her two daughters and later when she assisted in the care of her grandchildren. Her daughters, Heather Shirley and Shannon Yellowstone, miss her more and more each day. She served as a constant reminder of what it means to live for others and how to live a prayerful life. Even though she prayed the rosary daily, read spiritual and scriptural books and was a member of the Legion of Mary, she became an Associate to increase her Catholic faith and learn more about the spiritual natures of Saints Francis and Clare.

Stella was not only an inspiration to her family, but to the many people she came in contact with in the parish where she served as a lay minister, which included outreach to the elderly and fulfilling the needs of liturgy as a sacristan. She was as bright as her name, which means, "Guiding Star," which she truly was for many, especially in her relationship to the Legion of Mary and her friends from church.

She met faithfully with the Associates and Sisters in Tohatchi and sadly missed the meetings when she was too ill to participate. Sister Pat Bietsch shared that Stella longed to attend mass again and when she brought her communion she would be in tears over the fact that she wasn't able to celebrate the mass with her church community. Her devotion to the Eucharist and the Blessed Mother was evident in her prayer life and her many ministries.

Stella believed that wherever the Lord took her, she was ready. May she now be rewarded for her steadfast love of her Creator and her gratitude for His wondrous gifts.

Peace and All Good,

Carolyn Meyer

Hail Mary

MALIA DINIYINI, 'I DIYINI
N'YIL'AI, NAQA'NAQA'AI
NILE NDEST'AEGO, ESDZAN
T'AAALTSO BAGHADI
NÁ'QA'NI', ÁADO BÂ'QA'NI'
SHINLCHINI YESU.
MALIA DINIYINI DIYIN
AYÚIT'EI BAMA,
BÂHÂGI ADANIT'ÉI NAQA
SODILZIN, KAT ÁADO
NDA'SILDID BIJÍJÍ.
AMEN.