Sister Amelia Limiac Sarmiento, OP
1959-2018

As a child growing up in Angeles City, Philippines, Amelia Limiac Sarmiento was surrounded by the Catholic faith. Her parents, Jacobo Sarmiento and Susana Limiac, brought up their children with regular Sunday Mass and daily recitation of the Rosary. And, although she attended public grade school, she received regular catechetical instruction and even dreamed of becoming a catechist herself someday.

Amelia was born on January 22, 1959, the third of six children, all girls, born to Jacobo and Susana. Her siblings were Avelina, Teresita, Alicia, Linda and Carlota. After graduating from high school at Republic Central Colleges in Angeles City, she attended Holy Angel College (University), also in Angeles City, and graduated in 1979 with her bachelor’s degree in accounting. She then was able to fulfill her childhood desire to become a catechist and began working alongside the local Benedictine Sisters in their parish. During that time, in 1980, her father died.

The Benedictines quickly noticed her apostolic spirit and encouraged her to join them, and she spent six months as an aspirant with them. She chose not to continue that process because she decided she needed more time to discern God’s plan for her, but then Sister Rosita Yaya, of the Dominican Sisters of Our Lady of Remedies, came to the parish to talk with the young women about religious life, and Amelia began taking the required steps for possible entrance into that community. It was 1983.

When she decided she was being called to religious life with the Dominicans, she originally faced opposition from her mother. But Susana finally gave her permission, and on December 15, 1984, Amelia became a Dominican Sister of Our Lady of Remedies. According to her biography, she was accompanied to the convent by her parish priest, Father Lenard Flores, a friend and benefactor to the congregation, and “Father Len” told the Sisters that Amelia was his birthday gift to them – a comment which delighted her.

The Sisters’ formation procedures included being part of each of the various small communities of Sisters and their ministries. It was a time during which Sister Amelia matured and discovered her gifts and talents, a process which continued after she made her first profession on January 30, 1988, and continued to work in different areas of ministry to determine which one best suited her. She spent four years in that way as a temporary professed Sister and then completed a year of theological study, reflection and prayer before making final profession on June 27, 1992.

“Sister Meng,” as she was known, was in a number of ministries in the Philippines over the next quarter-century. These included serving as school treasurer at parochial schools in Porac, Floridablanca, Lubao, and Angeles City; in pastoral ministry in San Fernando; as the congregation’s co-formator and later formator of novices, formator and later co-formator of the temporary professed Sisters, formator of postulants, and treasurer. After the Remedies Sisters merged with the Adrian Dominicans, becoming the Our Lady of Remedies Mission Chapter, she became the Chapter’s vocation director.

Sister Amelia was diagnosed with cancer of the duodenum in July 2018 and died on December 5, 2018, aged fifty-nine. She was predeceased by her parents and two of her sisters, Avelina and Carlota. She is buried in Holy Mary Memorial Park in Angeles City.
From left: Sister Amelia with students of Dominican School of Apalit during their Sports Fest. Sister Amelia in Baguio, the “Summer Capital” of the Philippines.

From left: From left, Sisters Zenaida Nacpil, Racquel Rones, and Amelia at prayer in the formation house for novices, 2016. Sister Amelia with Katrina Acer Artates, then a postulant.
From left: Sister Amelia (left) with Sister Meliza Arquillano, then a novice. From left, Sisters Jenny Fajardo, Ines Evangelista Manuel, Amelia Sarmiento, Remedios Basilio, Lourdes Pamintuan, and, in front, Sister Jolyn Dungo.