

I would like to share a few words with you about an extraordinary woman of quiet leadership, a woman of unwavering faith, a woman whose commitment, generosity, kindness and devotion has surely helped pave her way to Heaven. That woman is Christina Sanchez, who passed away on December 26th at her home in Spring Glen, surrounded by her large and loving family.

Christina was born and raised in New Mexico and came to Helper, Utah as a teen bride after her marriage to Fidel Sanchez from this area. Over the years, they were the proud parents to twelve children and with the help of her parents and grandmother built a good life in their little home in Spring Glen, a life filled with love and devotion. Their family would take up two pews at church every Sunday. Tina and Fidel cleaned and maintained the church for years to help send ten of their children to Notre Dame Catholic School. She and her mother joined St. Anthony's Altar Society in the early 1960's and Tina volunteered by cooking for and helping with many parish activities. Life was good. This beautiful life would also bring hardship as the couple lost two small sons (ages 3 and 9 months) to what was most likely Reyes syndrome in early 1965, and then years later their adult daughter, Rose was killed in a car accident. Christina's faith was tested, but it grew stronger. Soon after she lost the little boys in 1965, she was urged to attend her first DCCW convention by Father Dowling, as a way to get her mind off her grief. He persuaded her to drive a small group of St. Anthony's non-driving women to SLC and she never looked back. The organization and its women loved Tina and she embraced them as well. Through the almost 60 years of membership, she would hold every office at the parish and Deanery level and she also served as DCCW Treasurer in 1994. She rarely missed a DCCW or NCCW convention and continued to attend monthly meetings until recently when her health declined. Even in her 80's, she continued to be our affiliate Historian, her camera always ready to snap a picture at CCW events. Last April she was honored by St. Anthony's at the spring Deanery meeting and DCCW Convention which she attended with her daughter, Geralyn. Geralyn has asked to attend the convention with our St. Anthony's group to take her mom's place this spring. As a final tribute for our parish Christina wrote and signed a check to pay her CCW dues and she also insisted that her family cook and serve her funeral luncheon so that the women of the bereavement committee could take a break. What an amazing woman she was till the end and may her soul rest in peace with the Lord. We will miss our beautiful Christina, our sister in Christ, our gentle quiet leader.

